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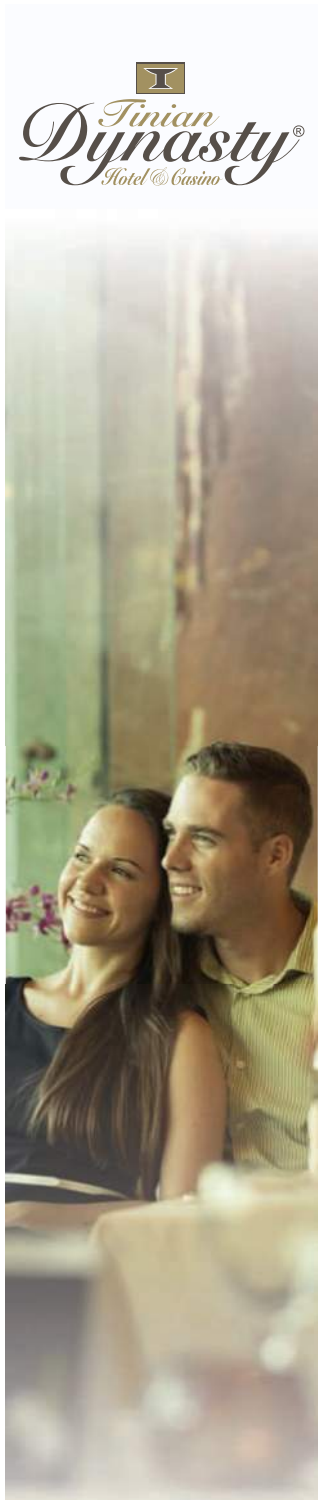

Finance finalizing timeline for release of 25-percent pension

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Department of Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson disclosed yesterday that they are now finalizing the timeline for the release of the retirees' withheld 25-percent pension.

Larson

"We don't have a date yet, but it's our goal to make it as fast as possible," said Larson in an interview. "We should

See FINANCE on Page 4

House panel presents $137.73M FY 2015 budget

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House Ways and Means Committee prefiled on Tuesday a bill appropriating $137.73 million out of $170 million in estimated revenues for the CNMI government's operations and activities for fiscal year 2015.

Under House Bill 18-201 that committee chair Antonio P. Sablan (Ind-Saipan) and five other members signed, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. will get $50.33 million for personnel and operations—the highest budget among eight government corporations and agencies.

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. will get the second highest with $41.56 million. The Northern Marianas Housing Corp. will receive $2.44 million; Office of the Public Auditor, $2.06 million; Commonwealth Ports Authority, $1.92 million; Commonwealth Development Authority, $1.29 million; and Northern Mariana Retirement

See HOUSE on Page 4

Former press secretary Frank Rosario passes away

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Surrounded by family members, former press secretary Frank Del Rosario peacefully passed away yesterday at 11:55am at the Commonwealth Health Center where he had been on life support in the last few days. He was 63.

RELATED NEWS
➤ Frank Rosario: A well-rounded life. PAGE 4

Rosario was supposed to celebrate his birthday on Saturday, July 19.

There will be a daily Mass starting today at St. Jude Parish at 6pm, followed by rosary. The family is still finalizing details of Rosario's interment.

According to his brother, *Saipan Tribune* columnist John DelRosario, Frank Rosario had a major stroke in

Rosario

See ROSARIO on Page 4

'MUCH SAFER ROADS'

JAYSON CAMACHO

Joined by Gov. Eloy S. Inos, dignitaries, and other government officials, the Department of Public Works breaks ground with its fourth and fifth islandwide road marking and signage upgrade yesterday morning as part of their project to keep Saipan roads safe.

See story on Page 5

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Security guards escort CREES chief from NMC

Ross Manglona, dean and director of NMC's Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service, was escorted by security from the college's campus yesterday morning after being told that he was being put on administrative leave.

An NMC employee who agreed to speak on condition of anonymity confirmed what transpired.

In an interview, Manglona took issue with his treatment, calling it "embarrassing" and a "humiliation"—to be treated as if he had committed a criminal act.

He noted that the college had technically not terminated him as his contract is set to expire in August. He said he would have left without a fuss if the college had simply decided not to renew his contract. However, he said they were trying to avoid terminating him outright, which would have required the Northern Marianas College to show cause.

When asked for comment, the college issued a statement: "As a general policy, [NMC] does not publicly comment on specific personnel matters. [NMC] will be appointing an interim dean of CREES in the meantime to ensure that critical services to the community and to students are not interrupted in any way."

Manglona's main concern, though, is that he is being put on administrative leave with pay. Essentially, he said, they have turned him into a "ghost employee."

"How am I being compensated when I didn't put any work in? Now that becomes a question of legality," he said.

Manglona claimed that several college employees have been subjected to the same process—being placed on administrative leave instead of outright termination. But unlike them, as a dean and director, he felt the need to speak rather than "being swept under the rug."

Manglona cited two employees whose contracts were not renewed and were let go in the same manner. He said he refused to sign their timesheets as if they had been working, and that if a college official instead signed the sheets, then fraud would have been committed.

"I'm one of three people that has been relieved and will be continuing to get a paycheck without showing up to work. I think it's illegal. You're going bill the federal government for someone who is not working," Manglona said.

He declined to identify the other two employees.

"The employees did not work those hours. [The college] is using administrative leave too loosely. The public should know because it's their money," he said.

When asked why the college would proceed in this way, he said he has had issues with NMC president Dr. Sharon Hart since she first arrived at the college. He claimed that despite the success of CREES during his tenure, he was let go because of his disagreements with the president.

According to Manglona, he filed a grievance against the college two years ago in 2012. Since then, he said he has been expecting this day to come.

Another concern he raised is NMC's conflict of interest when it comes to grievances filed by employees. According to NMC's website, Christopher Timmons is both the college's legal counsel and Human Resource director.

Manglona said this "double-duty" is a conflict of interest. "This is the guy that you're supposed to put your grievances through," he said.

While he regrets no longer being the head of CREES, Manglona said he does not doubt his staff's ability to succeed even more.

"If there's a message I'd like to give, to my staff and our stakeholders, it's that CREES is here for the people. I believe that the professional staff of CREES will continue to provide good services to the community. I thank the community for all these years of support and believing in our programs and making us a household name."

(Dennis B. Chan)

WITH GUBERNATORIAL RACE GETTING CROWDED

CEC chief urges candidates: File your candidacies early

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Robert A. Guerrero is encouraging candidates for the November elections to file their candidacies early.

In an interview on Wednesday, Guerrero said the advantage in filing early is that if there are not enough signatures on a candidate's petition, then there's ample time to gather more signatures before the closing date.

For example, Guerrero said, the gubernatorial candidates need 200 signatures from registered voters in order to be certified as candidates.

The executive director said any candidates who are short of signatures would have until Aug. 6 to submit the petition back to the Commonwealth Election Commission.

Guerrero said that if a candidate resubmits a petition but there are still not enough signatures during the commission's tally, then the commission can't return it back to tell the candidates they are still short.

The filing deadline is Aug. 6.

On Thursday, Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) led the filing of candidacies for 26 Republican candidates at CEC.

On Wednesday, former governor Juan N. Babauta and former senator Juan S. Torres filed their candidacies for governor and lieutenant governor respectively, at CEC. Babauta and Torres filed their candidacies along with Benjamin Cepeda, their lone candidate for House of Representatives for Precinct 1.

Two other teams vying for the gubernatorial seat have yet to file their candidacies. They are former speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider and Senate floor leader Ray Yumul (Ind-Saipan) as independents, and former Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director Edward "Tofila" M. Deleon Guerrero and former representative Daniel O. Quitugua of the Democratic Party.

At the Nov. 4 general elections, aside from the governor and lieutenant governor positions, voters will elect the delegate to the U.S. Congress, the Senate, the House of Representatives, mayors, municipal councils, and the Board of Education.

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3. **Administrative Assistant**
   Performs administrative and office support activities for multiple supervisors. Duties may include fielding telephone calls, receiving and assisting visitors, word processing, creating spreadsheets and presentations, filing, and faxing. Extensive software skills are required, as well as Internet research abilities and strong communication skills.

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BEST SUNSHINE International

Frank Rosario: A well-rounded life

By MARK RABAGO
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Editor's Note: This article was originally published in the January-March 2012 edition of TAGA Sports. *It is being reprinted here in honor of Frank Rosario, who passed away yesterday.*

Trying to put a finger on the place of Frank S. Rosario in Northern Marianas sports history is like tracing the path of Kobe Bryant doing a 360-degree slamdunk…a complete circle that few can match: athlete, writer, organizing executive, and fan.

A good place to begin is 1969. As the moniker "Super Bowl" was first being used in American football, half a world away tiny islands of the Pacific were launching their first regional games, the "Micronesia Olympics."

Rosario was fresh out of high school and newly recruited to play on the Northern Marianas national basketball team for the games. Unfortunately, the forces of nature were working against the home team that year. In 1967, a typhoon had knocked out all island power and had destroyed all sports facilities on island, except for basketball courts. Due to the devastation of the storm, organized sports had also been knocked off its feet.

"For one year we hadn't had games," Rosario recalls. "Then in 1969, prior to the start of the games, they were running around recruiting players like out-of-shape Frank. They recruited well-known athletes, swimmers, and track and field. We had baseball players, basketball players, volleyball players…they selected what they called the 'all-stars' to be part of the national team."

At 5'9" and 200 pounds, Rosario was a starter, playing both center and guard. Along with his teammates—he calls some of them to mind: Ignacio Demapan, Diego Blanco, David Aldan, George Camacho—the basketball team opened up the Micronesian Olympics with the inaugural game, facing off against Palau.

"I like guard. That's what I'm used to, and I can shoot a jumpshot pretty well from a distance," says Rosario. "At the time I was playing, there was no three-point line. Some of the points that I scored were definitely three pointers."

Nonetheless, the team struggled and finished third.

"I was proud to represent the Northern Marianas, but we were not a well-conditioned team," Rosario offers candidly.

Despite a lackluster athletic performance, his first games still hold vivid memories for Rosario.

"The basefield field was good. Not as good as today, but very modest. The lone basketball court was outdoor in Susupe at the former Civic Center. There were no women's basketball games, because basketball was just starting. Volleyball was held outside the Chalan Kanoa Elementary School auditorium on a grass court.

"The track and field was pressed gravel. Our swimming pool was up at Garapan Fishing Base. They put ropes to divide the lanes where the boat ramp is today. It was very deep. I wonder what would've happened if it had been a windy day and seas were rough..."

Rosario's favorite recollection of the Games was a competitor from Pohnpei who drew quite a crowd and who was also the likely cause of Saipan's first traffic jam; both stirred up quite a buzz in the community.

"There was a guy from Pohnpei, Ishiro Hairens. He won four gold medals, all in track and field: 1,500 meters, 3,000 meters, 5,000 meters, 10,000 meters. He beat everybody as if those guys were not even in the race, I mean, he beat them badly," Rosario recalls.

"He became a crowd favorite. When he went for the 10,000 meters, they had to run all the way up from (the current Ada Gymnasium) to Garapan Fishing Base and back. He came in smoking, a cigarette dangling from his lips. It was just for show. That got the crowd going. Not only that, after running, like…" Rosario gestures to show the long distance, "…someone like me would've been dead from exhaustion, but this guy was making fun out of it! He would wait for [the last] 100 meters, then take off as fast as he could. Unbelievable. Barefoot, eh?

"Because of his accomplishments in the games, Pohnpei took him and entered him in a race in Japan, but he quit because it was too cold. And also, he was forced to wear shoes. I met him again in 1982. I wonder where he is now…"

Despite being an active player in high school and medaling in the Micronesian Olympics, it was only a few years later that Rosario hung up his jersey.

"The last time I played organized basketball was in 1972, when Papua New Guinea came with their naval ship, and they challenged a team from Saipan. Somebody called us up and asked us to play, and we got creamed. We lost badly, again, because there was no organized basketball."

It was about that time that Rosario began honing new skills for the next phase of his career: word play. He was working as an assistant public information officer for the Trust Territory government when the time came for the second Micronesian Games.

"I was sitting in the chambers covering the Congress of Micronesia when that conversation came up. The games were supposed to come every three years, but Congress did not appropriate money for the second games in Palau, so the games were dead."

In 1973 he was sent by the TT public information office to Fort Benjamin Harrison in Indianapolis, Indiana, for U.S. Defense Information School, a 10-week journalism course.

"I was the only Chamorro in the public information office, and I was sent to school to improve my English. I was the only civilian there; my classmates were Air Force, Marines, Army, Navy. Everyone came in with a uniform, and I walked in with my Hawaiian print shirt."

During his TT tenure, Rosario contributed on "everything under the sun" to the monthly *Micronesian Reporter*, and went on to become bureau chief of the government-owned Micronesian News Service, the only region-wide news service of the time. During this time he also covered Micronesia's first participation in the South Pacific Games (SPG) in Guam in 1975, simultaneously serving as public information officer for the Micronesia-wide Executive Committee of the SPG.

From his early beginning in with the TT government, Rosario's career then lead him to the positions of managing editor of the former *Commonwealth Examiner* and as the Saipan bureau chief for the *Pacific Daily News.*

With the formation of the young Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Rosario transitioned back to public service, serving on the Cabinet of three governors: press secretary and protocol officer for Gov. Lorenzo I. Guerrero and Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio, and special assistant for Micronesian affairs for Gov. Juan N. Babauta.

He was perfectly positioned to help advocate for the revival of the games in 1990. By then, the games had a new name.

"Somebody from the World Olympics wrote and told us not to use the word 'Olympics,'" he recalls. "It's like 'U.S. Congress.' People were of the opinion that we could call the local legislature, the 'Congress.' But there's only one Congress, and there's only one Olympics."

"Bill Sakovich, Kurt Banes, Mike White, [and] Bob Coldeen started discussing the second games. I told them, 'Go and find out if they're interested, and I'll ask Governor Guerrero to support it.' Bill went around to all the Micronesian districts at the time, and asked the leaders if they would support the Micronesia Games."

The Micronesian Games returned in 1990, with Rosario again taking on the role of public information officer of the executive committee. Sixteen years later, he also helped advocate for the return of the Games to the Northern Mariana Islands in 2006, after private sector financial pledges convinced the cash-strapped government to proceed with hosting the event.

"[Frank] was an above-average basketball player," recalls Kurt Banes, a key organizer of the first Micronesian Olympics and a constant figure throughout subsequent Games and Northern Marianas sports. "Frank was a stanch sports supporter. He understood the complexities of all sports. He attended every track meet that was held on the all-weather track at the Ada Gym and understood what good times and marks were."

Finally, after 26 years of government service, Rosario retired from public service in 2006.

Following a short stint as a correspondent for *Pacific Magazine*, he now finds time to enjoy wearing yet another hat, sports fan. From one season to the next, he closely follows the Los Angeles Dodgers, New England Patriots, and Los Angeles Lakers.

"I'm very bothered that the National Basketball Association has missed the starting of the games because of the labor dispute," he says. "I'm very disappointed."

These days Rosario spends most of his days in the coolness of his back porch, welcoming old friends and visitors for a trip down memory lane or a debate on today's newspaper headlines. His memory still sharp, he continues to be a wellspring of both official and behind-the-scenes history and a master storyteller of his own well-rounded life, including time spent hitting shots on the court, crafting the story on the newsbeat, planning for all possible contingencies involving hundreds of athletes in the meeting room, and watching the world go by from the comfort of his armchair.

ROSARIO

From Page 1

2009 and had to undergo medical bypass in Honolulu, Hawaii. His condition was complicated by diabetes and had to go through dialysis due to renal failure.

John said that Frank's children were by his side since last Saturday.

Frank Rosario was the press secretary of former governor Pedro "Teno" P. Tenorio and the late former governor Larry Guerrero.

Frank's career as a journalist started in a radio station, moving on to the Micronesian News Network, becoming a staff writer for *Pacific Daily News*, and then being hired as a public information officer for Guerrero and Tenorio.

"He and I basically had the same career as the only two local journalists in our generation," John DelRosario said.

Frank took up an extensive three-month course on the discipline of journalistic and news writing at the U.S. Department of Defense School of Journalism in Fort Benjamin Harrison in Indianapolis.

Catherine Perry of Integrity Communications said that she has always considered Frank to be her professional mentor.

"When he was my boss at the Office of the Governor's Public Information and Protocol Office, he gave me confidence in my abilities as a communicator and problem solver," Perry said. "And Frank always knew what was really going on, the history or intrigues behind every story."

Perry said that Frank was an honest and loyal public servant through many administrations, "and to me, a dearly loved and respected friend."

At the height of Frank's career as a journalist, he covered major events for PDN on the Micronesian Constitutional Convention, Political Status Commission negotiations, Marianas Political Status Commission negotiations, and many more.

FINANCE

From Page 1

have a timeline very shortly that we will be releasing to the media."

She said the first batch of checks would most likely be for the restoration of the retirees' deferred 25-percent pension.

This comes soon after the Lottery Commission gave Best Sunshine International Ltd. a conditional license to build an integrated casino resort on Saipan. Once Best Sunshine is officially awarded the license, that will trigger the release of the $30 million license fee that Best Sunshine deposited in a bank on escrow. That money would be used to pay the retirees' deferred 25-percent pension since last year, as well as the accrued interest on withdrawn Defined Benefit plan contributions.

Larson said they are having discussions with the Retirement Fund to see who would be able to release the money faster.

"We should have it soon in the next couple of days or we have a tentative date. But we want it as fast as possible," she said.

Larson acknowledged that the retirees have been waiting a long time and that the Inos administration is aware of the importance in restoring their money immediately.

On the casino project, Larson said the next step is primarily the issuance of a conditional license, which is being worked out now.

Larson said the next step is the implementation of Best Sunshine's plans.

The secretary said that after the license is awarded then the Casino Gaming Commission will take over.

"As far as oversight of the casino itself and the implementation of the plan from that point we completed our work," she said.

Larson said they're very grateful to both bidding companies: Best Sunshine International Ltd. and Marianas Stars Entertainment Inc.

Larson said the Lottery Commission, of which she is a member, did its part in making sure that all applications were reviewed.

"We hired consultants to make sure that everything was in place," she said. "We feel very confident that we made the right choice."

With the conditional license given to Best Sunshine, Larson said they still have some administrative matters to attend to.

"We will be continuing our meetings, but it won't be as frequent [compared to] what's been happening over the last couple of months," she said.

The secretary pointed out that they had a very tight timeline with the casino law so they had to expedite their work on it.

"So now that the major work has been done, we can go back to our normal operations," Larson added.

HOUSE

From Page 1

Fund, $612,723.

The Public Utilities Commission did not make any budget submission.

The Judicial Branch will be appropriated $4.63 million; the Legislature, $5.57 million; and the Executive Branch, $4.70 million. The Office of the Attorney General will get $581,212.

For government departments, Public Safety will get $7.19 million; Finance, $4.43 million; Corrections, $3.88 million; Public Works, $3.62 million; Land and Natural Resources; $2.49 million; Community and Cultural Affairs, $1.86 million; Commerce, $922,439; and Labor, $848,794.

The Rota municipal government will get $5.54 million; for Tinian and Aguigan, $5.52 million; and for the Northern Islands, $2.16 million.

Independent programs will get $39.69 million, including $27 million for the Retirement Settlement Fund. For boards and commissions, $1.42 million will be appropriated.

The Public School System is appropriated $32.27 million; the Northern Marianas College, $4.24 million; $1.34 million for CHC subsidy; $1.16 million for the Marianas Visitors Authority; and $172,257 for the PSS Board of Education.

In the bill, Sablan recommended that Gov. Eloy S. Inos reallocate the distribution of the Commonwealth Worker Funds: $600,000 each for PSS and NMC, and $200,000 to the Northern Marianas Technical Institute.

Sablan said the CW funds are subject to appropriation and should have been identified by the governor as available for appropriation.

Inos' proposed fiscal year 2015 budget is $134.33 million, which is lower than the fiscal year 2014 budget of $135.786 million after he recently signed a $12.386 million supplemental budget law.

Inos denies Forbes claim of 'fix' in casino license award

»Governor: There will always be skeptics on casino

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos denied yesterday a claim made by a Forbes columnist that the selection process in the issuance of an exclusive Saipan casino license was "fixed."

"Fix? How is that? There was no fix," said Inos during an interview with reporters at a groundbreaking ceremony for an islandwide road marking and signage upgrade.

Inos said he does not know anything about the Forbes article and said that he will look into it.

In an article titled "'No banana republic' US-owned Saipan acts it in casino battle" that was published on July 16, 2014, Forbes Asia contributing writer Muhammad Cohen wrote that throughout "the drive to legalize casinos on Saipan, it seemed as if the fix was in for Best Sunshine."

Inos

Hi article outlines the history of efforts to legalize casino gaming on Saipan, when two prior efforts were rejected by voters.

"However, in March, after the House passed a casino bill, the Senate approved it a day later, without public hearings or committee consideration," Cohen stated. "One thing had changed before the March vote: in late January, investors with ties to Macau junket promoter Hengsheng Group had hosted four key CNMI senators on a visit to Hong Kong and Macau, one of a series of so-called 'fact-finding' trips from late last year by CNMI elected officials, including Gov. Eloy Inos. Best Sunshine's parent company, then called First Natural Foods, announced its investment in Hengsheng last November, paying 400 million Hong Kong dollars (US$51 million) to the younger sister of First Natural's 34 year old controlling shareholder for an estimated 5 percent share of the junket promoter's profit stream."

Inos pointed out that what people should be looking at is the result when the Commonwealth opened up the bid process for the exclusive casino license.

"If it was fixed, we will receive only one [proposal], but there were two proposals that were submitted," he said.

Inos also said there was a request for proposals, "so how could that be a fix from the beginning?"

"There was another interested firm and they went through the bidding process and we are where we are right now," Inos said.

He said there will always be people who will question the process. "There are skeptics out there all the time, no matter what," and that there are people "who just don't believe in it."

"And to justify their reason, they'll go against it and use any justification," he added.

DPW marks fourth, fifth islandwide road marking project

»$300K for Beach Road, $160K for Chalan Pale Arnold

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Works broke ground yesterday morning on its fourth and fifth islandwide road marking and signage upgrade for Beach Road and Chalan Pale Arnold that will cost up to $538,766.

DPW Secretary Martin C. Sablan, DPW Technical Services Division director Ben Cabrera, Gov. Eloy S. Inos, and RadioCom Saipan Inc.'s engineering vice president Dan Ganacias led yesterday's groundbreaking ceremony.

RadioCom is the construction contractor for the project on Route 33 (Beach Road) and Route 30 (Chalan Pale Arnold Road). The Route 33 project amounts to $369,716 while Route 30 is $169,050.

Route 33 project starts from Koblerville near the Mobil Gas Station to Garapan near the American Memorial Park. Route 30 project starts from Oleai near Payless Shoe Store to Sadog Tasi at the Mobil Gas Station.

The projects goals are the rehabilitation of road markings, upgrade of traffic signage, shoulder reconditioning, and painting of sidewalk curbs and raised medians.

Cabrera said the project is one of many projects that DPW is working on. DPW took the initiative in response to both the governor and lieutenant governor's challenge about so many planning but very little construction.

"We need to start with something to make our roads safer than yesterday," Cabrera said.

Cabrera noted that hopefully after Thanksgiving, when community members begin putting out Christmas lights, the roads would be well-lighted and marked.

Inos said he will take up Cabrera's word that before Christmas residents from Precinct 3 will be lighted up.

"I understand that the stripes that are present out there [on Route 33 and Route 30] were done years and years ago," Inos said.

Inos said the project would make the roads a lot safer.

Ganacias said he is glad to be helping with the project and that all they have to do is make sure it is implemented successfully.

Sablan noted that there will be a similar project involving the road in Tanapag, San Roque, and all the way to Marpi.

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ON BABAUTA'S FILING OF CANDIDACY

Inos: May the best man win

"May the best man win."

Thus stated Gov. Eloy S. Inos over Wednesday's filing of candidacies by former governor Juan N. Babauta and former senator Juan Sablan Torres for governor and lieutenant governor respectively.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune*, Inos said he was hoping that Babauta would stay with the GOP instead of deciding to make a run as an independent candidate.

"That's, of course, his desire and we will see and may the best man win," the governor said.

Babauta said Wednesday that he and Torres are proposing to build a strong middle class, which is one of the things that the CNMI economy lacks.

Torres on the other hand stated that their solution is more concrete and long term, unlike the casino industry that may falter. He offered that one of their solutions is alternative power energy, from which the government could generate income as this will reduce utility rates and create savings instead of buying expensive oil.

Inos said he never claimed that casino is the answer, but that it provides a lot of the funds that will help restore some form of economic sustainability for the CNMI.

He said there's not one solution per se.

"You've got to put all these things together until you're able to come up with a one practical solution," he said.

On alternative power, Inos said a cheaper fuel utility rate would of course allow for more disposable funds for the community.

Inos said they are still working on that alternative power energy, as "it's all part of the plan."

Babauta and Torres are both longtime Republicans. They are running as independents because the GOP rejected their request for a primary race. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Chalan Kiya to have 24-hour water service soon

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

AIC Marianas Inc. has begun its preparatory work for the construction of the Chalan Kiya-Kannat Tabla waterline connection that will enable 24-hour water service to these areas soon.

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Alan Fletcher confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that AIC Marianas, after being awarded the contract to build the waterline connection, is now obtaining the necessary permits from local government agencies.

Another part of AIC Marianas preparatory work is the procurement of materials, survey, and staking work.

Fletcher said the new waterline is necessary to provide adequate water pressure to Chalan Kiya water customers and provide them with a more reliable water source from the Kannat Tabla reservoir.

"In addition this connection will improve system efficiency by enabling the elimination of the Duenas well, which is currently operating 24/7 and uses excessive energy," he said.

According to him, the areas currently served by the Kannat Tabla reservoir will have 24-hour water service, "thus Chalan Kiya in turn will have 24-hour water service as well."

The project is being funded by a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. CUC awarded AIC Marianas a $173, 621 contract to install new six-inch ducile iron distribution waterline connecting the Kannat Tabla reservoir to the existing Chalan Kiya water distribution main line.

Construction may also include the replacement of various gate valves and relocation of water service laterals at designated areas within the Chalan Kiya village.

Fletcher noted that preparatory concrete work for the pipe supports for the new aboveground six-inch ducile iron pipe and the main PRV vault have been performed off the job site and are stored at the contractor's storage yard.

"This project is in the construction phase of the project. As part of mobilization, the contractor is tasked to obtain all of the necessary permits from the local government agencies," Fletcher said.

The expected project completion date is Dec. 19, 2014.

Managaha Beach red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged the Managaha Beach and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of this location for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified. The affected site is next to the Managaha dock.

Samples collected from this location contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

DEQ analyzes water samples collected from Managaha's recreational beaches and storm drainage every Tuesday. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 4th birthday to our lovely daughter, Julia Clarisse Bella, who will be celebrating her special day on July 20, 2014. We love you so much! Greetings come from Mama and Papa.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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JOETEN DONATION

The Joeten Charitable Foundation recently made a $5,000 educational tax credit donation to the Northern Marianas College to support the institution's mission of advancing students' lives through higher education. The presentation of the donation was led by Clarence Tenorio, center, Joeten Enterprises board member. Also in the photo are, from left to right, Jack Kiyoshi, NMC Alumni Association president; Somia T. Quan, Joeten Daidai Foundation program manager, Jackie Che, acting NMC president; Joe Santos, NMC Foundation president; Tenorio; Frannie T. Demapan, Joeten summer intern; Frankie Eliptico, NMC External Relations director; Tracy Guerrero, NMC chief financial officer; and Bo Palacios, JC Tenorio Enterprises Business Development manager.

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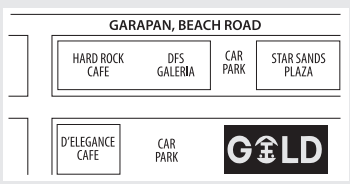

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Justice Inos issues order to show cause vs Woodruff

ROAD REOPENING U.S. NAVY/JOANNA DELFIN

Rear Adm. Tilghman Payne, commander, Joint Region Marianas, and Guam Gov. Eddie Baza Calvo shake hands and congratulate each other following a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Route 1/8 Intersection and Agana Bridge Reconstruction Projects in Hagatna, Guam, on July 9. The $16.4 million project, which was 100 percent federally funded, was the result of a 2008 study of Guam's specific routes that would be utilized during the Marine Corps relocation from Okinawa to Guam.

CNMI Supreme Court Associate Justice Perry B. Inos has ordered disbarred lawyer Stephen C. Woodruff to explain why the court should not dismiss his appeal, strike the appendix and portions of his brief, or issue sanctions against him.

Inos issued the order after Woodruff filed a long brief in the wrong font size and an appendix separate from the brief.

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman disbarred Woodruff in June 2013 for committing 44 violations of the Model Rules of Professional Conduct. Woodruff appealed the order to the CNMI Supreme Court.

In an order to show cause last week, Inos said several Supreme Court Rules are implicated in Woodruff's case.

The associate justice said Rule 31-1(a) allows each party a single automatic extension.

Once an automatic extension has been granted, Rule 31-1(c) bars any further extensions, including both automatic and discretionary, Inos said.

Inos said Rule 32(a)(c) instructs parties to use 11-point font size, while Rule 32 (a)(7) restricts briefs to "35 pages total, inclusive of the caption, headings, table of contents, etc."—unless the court gives permission.

Inos said Rule 30(a)(3) requires an appellant to file his or her appendix and brief together on or before the briefing due date.

The associate justice said when an appellant brief "is not in substantial conformity with these rules," the court may dismiss the appeal, strike the brief, or sanction the appellant.

In Woodruff's case, Inos said, a briefing schedule was issued on April 30, 2014.

Woodruff's opening brief was due on May 30, 2014. He requested for a 30-day extension. The court granted it.

On the last day of that extension, Woodruff sought a discretionary extension for six days. The court granted him seven more days, but warned he would receive no more extensions.

Inos said that when the final deadline arrived, Woodruff filed a 56-page opening brief using 14-point font size.

Inos said that Woodruff filed an appendix to his brief the next day.

The associate justice said Woodruff's opening brief is too long, in the wrong font size, and lacking an appendix. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 18, 2012

CNMI Junior All-Stars celebrate finals stint

The CNMI Junior All-Stars had a beach barbecue party near Aquarius Resort in Chalan Kanoa last Saturday to celebrate their finals appearance in the 2012 Asia Pacific Regional Tournament held in Vietnam earlier this month. The Commonwealth players won four of their five games in the pool play, falling only to eventual champion Chinese-Taipei in the elimination, 1-5. The CNMI started out with three wins, besting Hong Kong, 8-2; routing host team Vietnam, 21-0; and downing Philippines, 3-2, before stumbling to Chinese-Taipei, 1-5. The CNMI Junior All-Stars went on finish second overall and got another crack at Chinese-Taipei after 9-2 victory over Indonesia and an exciting 3-2 playoff win over the Philippines.

Poor budget planning

Pension plans are employee benefits. Because of the way CNMI government leaders have approached budget planning in the past few years these benefits are being taken away. CNMI government employees are going into the Social Security system. Since the negotiations regarding this are not transparent, it is not known how this will transpire. However, it is speculated that CNMI employees will be credited with five years of Social Security-only five years. So with this new math formula five years in the defined benefit plan = five years of Social Security. But the defined benefit plan stopped taking in new members a few years ago when the defined contribution plan came into effect. Chances are, these government workers in the defined benefit plan have worked for eight years or more. So is it still eight years government service = five years of Social Security, and 12 = five years and so on?

Las Vegas Night earns record-breaking $44K

The Saipan Rotary Club posted about $44,000 in gross proceeds from Saturday's Las Vegas Night, an amount that vice president Laila Boyer described as record-breaking in the history of the fundraiser. The amount, which was from the sales of tickets they produced, surpassed last year's $30,000 gross proceeds. Dave Sablan also said that Saturday night's turnout was the biggest he has ever seen in the 27 years of the club's history. This year's Las Vegas Night was attended by about a thousand-plus players and guests. During the club's weekly meeting at Hyatt Regency Saipan yesterday, club president Pete Shilling acknowledged each and every member and volunteers who "all did a perfect job" despite the overwhelming crowd throughout the night. Special thanks were also conveyed to each member of the community who supported the Las Vegas Night fundraiser despite the economic challenges and to the Saipan World Resort for hosting the event.

Manta Band's budget shortfall narrows to $15,000

Saipan Southern High School's Manta Band members are getting closer to their dream of performing at the London Olympics following the announcement yesterday that the group was able to close their budget gap from $90,000 last month to only $15,000 yesterday. Will DeWitt, the Manta Band's music director, made the announcement yesterday after receiving from the Saipan Rotary Club a $1,000 donation for their trip to the Summer Olympics next week. "We're very happy to report that we closed that gap with your help and narrowed it from $90,000 to $15,000 as of this moment and we could have not done it without your generosity and the outpouring support from the community," said DeWitt. He said the band has enjoyed a long history of collaboration with the Saipan Rotary Club, which donated the band's musical equipment about seven years ago. He said these precious equipment were instrumental in honing and developing the skills of band members. He estimates that over 200 students benefit from the band instruments each year. DeWitt told reporters that the local musicians will be performing in four different events during the Olympics. These include performances at Westminster Abbey, Queen Elizabeth's Conference Center, at a torch ceremony in Central London, and the bonus show at the Olympic Park.

Energy firm protests award of solar power contract to ACE

Coldwell Solar, Inc., a solar energy company based in California with plans to expand operations to the CNMI, has protested the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s recent decision to push through with a contract with American Capital Energy for the development of a solar power system on Saipan and Rota. Under the contract, ACE would sell power to the CUC at a per kilowatt hour charge for 20 years.

The project itself is a good one and needed, said Coldwell Solar chief executive officer Dave Hood, but it could be done at a much lower cost to the public.

"The contract award is based on 2011 pricing for the project," Hood said. "Solar costs have dropped dramatically since then, up to 60 percent in most cases. If CUC were to bid out this project now, at today's prices, the cost to CUC and to the public would be much lower. Based on today's lower pricing, we could save an additional million dollars each year for 20 years. That's a $20 million additional savings."

CUC first announced the solar power project back in 2011. After a request for proposals, ACE was selected for award of the contract. However, the project was then put on hold for nearly three years while a feasibility study was conducted. Finally, late last month, CUC announced its intention to finalize the contract with ACE.

Over that same three-year span, however, the cost of solar panels, like those that would be used in the project, has substantially decreased. According to a report by the Solar Energy Industries Association, the average price of a photovoltaic solar panel dropped by 60 percent between 2011 and 2013, and Hood noted that in 2014 the decrease has continued even further.

"Since the cost of solar is so much lower now, it only makes sense to re-bid the project at today's prices," said Hood. "Not only our company, but many other local companies, including ACE, could effectively compete at the new lower rates. In the long run, the winner will be CUC, who won't have to pay as much per kilowatt hour for the power, as well as the CNMI public, who won't have to pay such high electric bills."

CUC denied Coldwell Solar's protest only a week after it was filed, concluding that it is "not compelled to change a procurement due to changes in the market, as markets change, up or down, constantly."

"We realize there's a sense of urgency for Saipan but this isn't just an ordinary market fluctuation in pricing," said Hood. "Rather, this has been an extraordinary event the likes of which we may never see again in the solar energy industry. It's clearly a chance for truly significant public savings." Hood believes the drop in pricing was influenced by an exploding global solar market, advancement in technology and efficiency, as well as pressure from the Asian manufactures.

Coldwell Solar has appealed the denial of the protest to the Office of the Public Auditor. ***(PR)***

Local farms participate in safe pesticide control

Just by strolling down the local farmers' market and purchasing local produce, you could check off two good deeds on your list: eating healthy and supporting your local farmers.

Now there is a third good deed to keep in mind, to ensure the vegetables and fruits you are buying are safe from potentially harmful pesticides.

The Department of Lands and Natural Resources, Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, and Bureau of Environmental Health have begun their initiative to test locally grown produce on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota for the purpose of instilling consumer confidence in locally grown produce and promoting the consumption of fruits and vegetables.

The initiative is known as "Eating Healthy is Living Healthy" and its main purpose is to educate vendors and consumers about the safe use of pesticides in local produce.

A team of key staff members has been trained to conduct the test for chemical or pesticide residue on fruits and vegetables by using an onsite field test kit.

Pesticides and herbicides are intended to impair the reproductive system, breathing, and brain functions of pests and insects and unregulated exposure could be harmful to people, especially children and infants.

The onsite test will provide a quick response to confirm or eliminate the presence of chemicals or pesticides on the tested produce.

"This test is strictly a fact-finding endeavor to identify the current pesticide usage and pesticide residue level. The focus and intent is to raise awareness about the safe use of pesticides in local agriculture," said BECQ pesticide manager Reina Camacho.

"Our local vendors have been cooperating in these field tests and the goals of this initiative are to assure the community that locally grown fruits and vegetables are safe commodities, promote the sales of participating vendors, and to foster a healthier CNMI," she said.

The local farms tested so far are Acho's Gualo, 3J's Enterprises,William Ada Farm, Greg Calvo's Farm, Saipan Farm & Garden, Rose's Farm, Greenlife Local Fresh Produce, Camia Garden, R/D Enterprises, Guerrero's Farm Produce, Jess Multi-Farms, KET/Roberto Farm, Lizama Farm, Y.A.S. Farm, and Frank Castro Farm.

The results from tests are kept confidential and no enforcement actions will be taken regarding the outcome of the residue test.

"If there is no residue on three sample crops on three separate occasions, the team shall advertise the farm/business as being pesticide free. The advertisement will appear in the newspaper and on the radio," said Camacho.

"If there is residue, the farm/business will be asked to take a pesticide handling course," she noted.

For more information on the "Eating Healthy is Living Healthy" campaign, call 664-8500 or visit http://www.deq.gov.mp/sec.asp?secID=38 under Special Project: Pesticide Residue Testing. ***(BECQ)***

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

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EDITORIAL

Challenging teacher tenure

The following editorial appeared in Newsday *on Thursday, July 10:*

The teacher tenure war that's been simmering across the nation for years has begun to boil over. The battle is now in Philadelphia, but it started in California and is spreading to New York. Hopefully, the ability of some teachers to keep their jobs no matter how poorly they perform will soon end. Here's a recap.

Philadelphia has an ineffective school system and teachers unions fighting change. What's at stake is a cornerstone of unionism: employment decisions based on years of service. Officials laid off 3,800 teachers last year, but 1,600 were called back. The layoffs were done by seniority, as the teacher contract and state law demand. For the callbacks, though, criteria other than length of service were considered.

Because the city's schools are under state control due to financial and academic issues, Pennsylvania law protecting the privileges of seniority can be suspended. Less clear is whether the teacher contract that enshrines seniority also can be bypassed. As more staff cuts are in the works for the upcoming school year, the city is telling school administrators they can bypass seniority to retain younger teachers if the ones they keep are measurably better, and the unions are pushing back.

The confrontation in Philadelphia comes weeks after a lower court judge in California blew up that state's tenure law. The judge ruled that tenure disproportionately affected the education of low-income students by letting poor teachers, too often parked in minority neighborhood schools, stay in place.

Shifting the emphasis in the tenure debate from one that protects the free expression rights of teachers to one that shows a union work rule is hurting education for poor students could be revolutionary. Getting better teachers to the poorest kids is a national problem. President Barack Obama addressed it last week by dedicating $4.2 million to help states devise plans to provide great teachers to children who need them most.

The other battleground in the education wars has been the new Common Core educational standards and the changing curricula implemented across the country. Parents are upset by how Common Core has been implemented, and rightly so. But they're also riled up by teacher unions decrying Common Core when what the unions mostly oppose is the teacher performance evaluations tied to student scores on standardized tests.

In some cases, the best teachers are the longest serving, in others they are not. The fight is over the idea that merit, not seniority, will be the main factor determining teachers' futures.

That's an outcome the unions oppose, but students must have.

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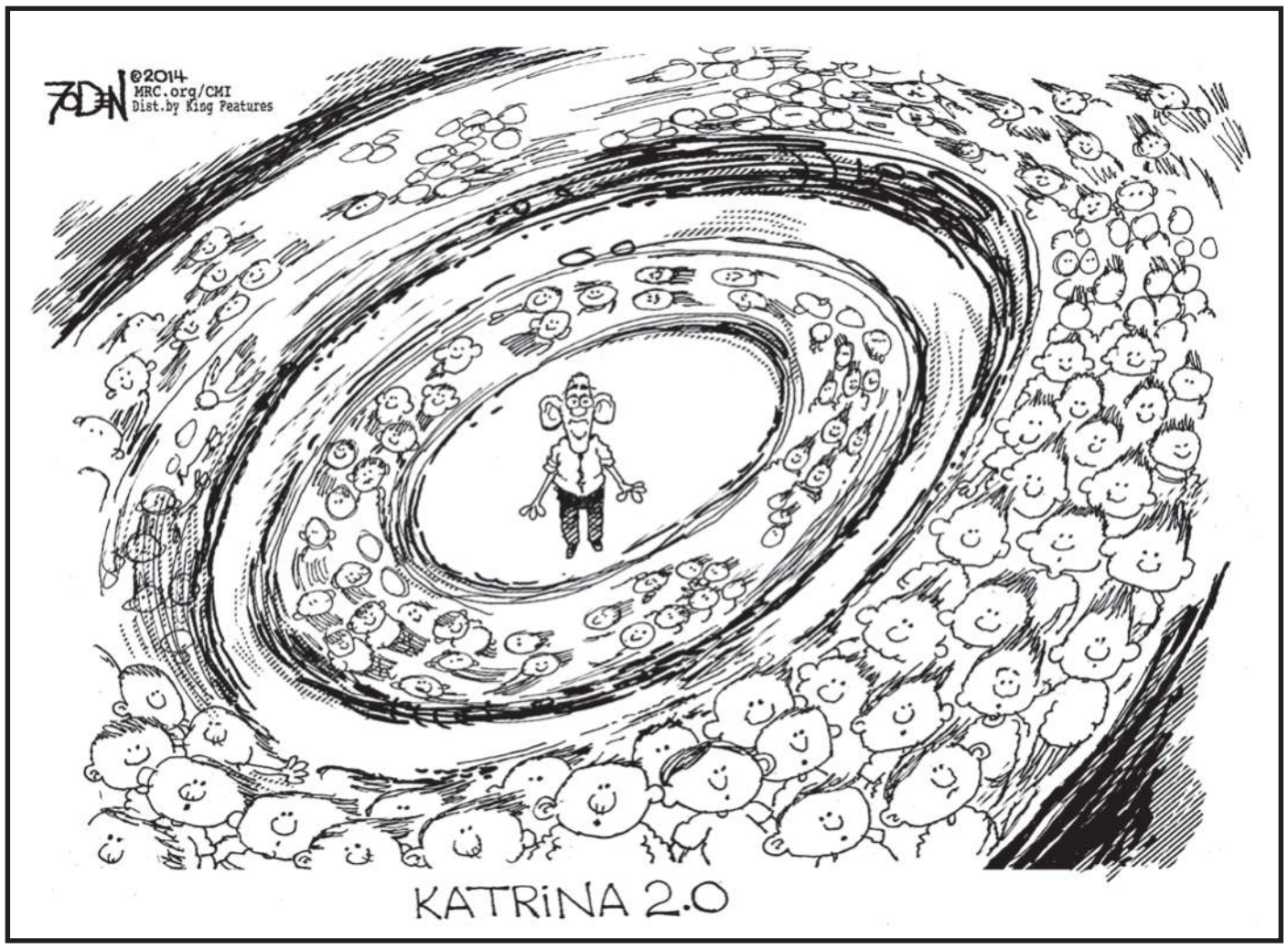


Going home

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.

Home Alone is a comedy film of a large family heading for a Christmas vacation in Paris when the parents realized that they were missing one of the brood, an 8-year-old played delightfully by Macaulay Culkin when he was still cute. This reflection is, however, not about the movie. It is about my return to China from an extended visit and farewell to North America.

Just to be clear, the "going home" metaphor is emotive more than geographic. Since the image explosion of the "earthrise" in 1968 in human consciousness, my "home" had become the planet and my citizenship has become global. But as a colleague in North Carolina commented, we are at an age when resources have become scarce and a long haul across the planet takes considerable effort, so she and her husband, colleagues across the miles, understood my farewell.

It shall have been 50 years this August when I took a 20-day sail from Manila to San Francisco, and our farewell is essentially a completion of that journey. It had been a roller-coaster ride, from crisscrossing North America save Vermont, Price Edward Island, Newfoundland, Labrador, New Brunswick, the Northwest and Nunavut territories, to puffing *ganja* the prolific grass of the Blue Mountains of Jamaica, trekking through Guatemala, Brazil, Chile, Peru, and Venezuela. We drove on the left side of the road in both Islands of Kiwi land, but left the driving to friends in Oz.

The salty mists of Micronesia with Nauru 'cept islands north of Saipan became nasal familiar; the *aloha* sway of Hawai'i, Samoa, and Tonga got us to the shore short of becoming a whale rider. Mosquitoes delivered malaria in Nigeria curtailing plans for the Victoria Falls in the Zambezi and Mt. Kilimanjaro in the highlands of Kenya. We had our fill of *Om* in Maharashtra but our countenance would not hold train rides to Gujarat and Calcutta or to Kerala and Bangalore.

A nodding salute to London's Westminster and fish-and-chips by Piccadilly Circus, Paris' crepes by Montmartre after losing all my francs at the Latin Quarters, sangria by Madrid's plaza mayor and plaza de españa, and sidewalk tables for pasta at Roma's piazzas including Pietro's across the Basilica, acknowledged my inheritance of Europe's meta-brain. Mainland and maritime Southeast Asia, however, was my stomping ground, and now, Far East Asia, particularly in *Dong Bei* China.

This recent farewell trip saw us elbowing with colleagues in the Realistic Living Institute whose covenant attended to our spirit discipline for 30 years. Two daughters shared their family hospitality and the precocity of their children (two each); also, the elder facilitating the revisit with heartbreaks of Ohio. In the Bay Area of SF, Ilocano classmates from INHS60 shook with Iloko mirth, and a colleague of Visayan hospitality left us with a treasured afterglow.

David Thompson who opened resorts in Banff and Jasper capped the head feathers when we joined DCHS'59ers (Davao City) in a wondrous tramp through the lower Canadian Rockies. The family of Thompson's namesake without the "p", a Donald rather than a David, plus a James of Bekah and feline-eyed 3-year-old Lainey, hosted my visit to the province of tar sand of the global fossil fuel market. I watched buckaroos perform ranch skills as cowhands raced chuck wagons, twirled ropes, and rode bucking broncos, and the cowgirls impressed in turning the attire of boots and hat into a fashion statement. On a bus trip to Edmonton, "To Dee I sing" became my theme song of gratitude for my host's warmth in Calgary.

INHS60 friends expressed hope that they had not seen the last of my shadow, and one who lives in Walnut Creek will keep tickling our class' bones with her regular posting of jokes and other interesting cyberspace forwards. Boni's Airlines and his Adele of South SF promised to bring the cap I left behind to the next class gathering in Pea Eye 2015. Objective statistical probability, extremely limited resource, and personal intention closes out my door to Amerigo Vespucci's continent, and I will now tend to my garden in Manchuria's Plain 'til I complete breathing my allotted oxygen on this planet.

I am not being melodramatic. I am simply being objective about my continuing journey. The world has become too small for its 7-billion-some *homo sapiens*. The selfhood and consciousness of each is invaluable not only for the enrichment of the specie but also the survival of a stressed planet. Consciousness trumps decay any day! I invite readers to write of their own reflection as well.

As I bid adieu to America, I remember a foothill in the Rockies bellowing smoke. I now see on TV hundreds of fires raging across the Northwest. Nature's wilderness is aflame. I know of friends in California eking a living in the 3-year-old drought of its inland valley noted for fragrant orchards and verdant farms, now gone dry, while many poor souls in Canada and China bob their heads above flooding waters. A major climate change is happening to the planet. A major tectonic shift is shaking the firm foundations of mine.

How's your life journey coming along?

Quasars

Last week had a lively media buzz about the "supermoon," an event when a full moon or a new moon is around its nearest orbital point to Earth. If we're going to discuss cool cosmic stuff, then let me buzz about this for a bit: quasars.

After all, you already know all about the moon. You've been seeing it your entire life. But it's likely that you've never heard much about quasars. So let's leap from the very familiar to the very strange.

Quasars are fire-breathing cosmic dragons, hiding in the deep recesses of space, and spewing streams of energy with such vigor that they can outshine entire galaxies.

Dragons, of course, have been understood for centuries; they menace damsels, devour knights, live in caves, and smoke too much. Quasars, on the other hand, are recent discoveries. Oh, the quasars themselves have been around a long time. But it took modern technology to bring them to our attention. This is one of those "cool discovery" chapters in science.

Although people turned telescopes skyward from the very minute they had telescopes, visual observation isn't the only technique used in astronomy. Visual light is just one thin slice of the emissions spectrum; we use it because we have built-in receivers called "eyeballs." But modern electronics allow astronomers to observe a far broader spectrum of stuff.

So, in the 1950s, using radio telescopes, astronomers noticed some powerful sources of x-rays coming from deep space. In the early 1960s, they correlated visible light sources with those x-rays. So they pretty much placed the face with the voice. It was a very big deal.

That's how they discovered quasars. So what are they?

The theory is that quasars come from supermassive black holes that are devouring the hearts of their host galaxies. (That's really the word, by the way, "supermassive.") As the galactic material is sucked into the black hole it swirls around like water going down a flushed toilet.

In a toilet, this swirling action is a great way to rinse out coffee cups.

In a black hole, this swirling action releases all sorts of energy, and if this happens on a super-duper large scale, it's a quasar.

Here's some scale: One well-known quasar is called 3C 273. It's said to be 4 trillion times brighter than the sun. Because of this freakish power, although it's really far away, as in 2.4 billion light-years, it's easily visible in a medium-sized backyard telescope, though in such equipment it just looks like a faint star.

Quasars, black holes, and other freaky things give scientists hints about how gravity behaves in extreme circumstances. This is a hot issue these days for one very unnerving reason: They don't really know what gravity is! Gravity behaves differently than the other basic forces of nature, so something is screwy here. This is Einstein-level stuff, so don't look to me for any answers, I don't even understand the questions.

As quasars show, reality is a lot stranger than fiction. The universe is very dynamic, everything is moving and swirling and exploding as old stars and planets die and new stars and planets are born. If you want to appreciate nature, the universe is as natural as it gets. What could be more natural?

On the appreciation front, here's something interesting: NASA offers a do-it-yourself kit for radio astronomy, called Radio Jove. It costs $210, is geared toward listening to the natural emissions from Jupiter and the sun, and is well-suited for school projects. It's easy to find on the Web.

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. His column runs every Friday.

Radio astronomy is, of course, super-charged by advances in electronics, so it's going to be a bigger deal in the years to come. The Pacific is represented in this realm, with major radio telescopes operating in Hawaii and New Zealand, and Australia will join the action in a few years for a big new project. Some devices have been launched into space, but I think this is, so far, a pretty sparse field. There will eventually be a major project on the moon, which will also serve to get the detectors beyond the noisy veil of our atmosphere.

Today's youngsters who are building radio Jove kits will become the Ph.D.s who lead radio astronomy into new discoveries. Does anyone on Saipan aspire to join their ranks? That would be cool.

Anyway, getting back to this supermoon thing, just so you don't think I'm snubbing the gig: The best supermoon of the year will occur on Aug. 11 at 4:09am Saipan time. So if you're one of those folks with supermoon fever, well, now you've got something to look forward to.

In the meantime, I'll just brew come coffee, settle into my beach chair, and enjoy the cosmic view. Care to join me? I rinsed out a cup for you.

Reality: Fund is bankrupt!

High fives and cheerful smiles flashed across the room when the casino amendment was inked last Friday. Indeed, fellow retirees deserve to receive what's owed them, including DB members who no longer could look forward to retirement upon completion of service.

I was prepared to scribble a panegyric piece for a suspect job riddled with shortsightedness. However, reality check says otherwise. Why the celebration that would turn into a requiem mass in three short months? I fact-checked the issue with the Fund to ensure it is stated in straightforward fashion. It isn't injected with pejorative spin, misrepresentation of facts, or hyperbole. It's fact-based from A-Z.

Briefly, the $30 million from the single license fee has already been earmarked: $25 million to repay the 25-percent cut for Saipan retirees, $4 million for Tinian and Rota retirees ($2 million apiece), and the balance of a million dollars to help DB members.

But this group needs some $8 million to pay off interest earned from their contributions. The license fee is depleted even before the get-go. The other sectors slated for funding out of the 5 percent gross revenue tax could sit idly by until three to five years from now when funds may be available. It includes utilities, medical referral and hospital operations. Who pays for these costs in the interim given the CNMI's fiscal collapse?

The fiscal year 2015 begins this October—three months from now—where the requisite amount to pay retirees is $27 million per the settlement agreement. Herein lies another huge fiscal hurdle versus a not-so-encouraging revenue stream. The agreement spreads and mandates the NMI government to pay the following amount over 10 years: $27 million, fiscal year 2015; $30 million, fiscal year 2016; $33 million, fiscal year 2017; $45 million, fiscal year 2018; then the amount decreases.

Interestingly, would pension pay be 100 or 75 percent upon resumption of the settlement agreement that starts this October?

The program is saddled with $791 million in unfunded liability. This simply means that this is how much the Fund is obligated to pay until the last retiree expires. It's a huge sum, though there's no money up ahead to pay retirees when investments are also depleted. DB members have withdrawn their contributions, the group whose deductions cushions paychecks for current retirees. Salt to injury: retirees and a lot of employees have opted out of their health premiums, forcing the spread of this cost solely to retirees. Health premiums would be far more expensive! No fun playground up that alley.

Simple arithmetic reveals a tale that nullifies optimism. We can't scamper away from it nor are we ready to be hopelessly enchanted by disoriented politicians who failed simple arithmetic time and again. *A` Saina ta`lu na diskuidu!*

Monkey on backs of governments

We're used to our grand *mañana*, playing Santa Claus even in July. Defraying the cost of the Fund is a bit too technical for average folks to understand. That it has gone belly up turns into a colossus political vultures refuse to revisit with the view to resolving persistent insolvency. It's all Band-Aid!

Though not necessarily visible in plain sight, health and pension are two costly programs that have driven city and state governments into bankruptcy. National papers are replete with banner stories how city governments throughout California are now bankrupt, including Detroit that owes some $18 billion.

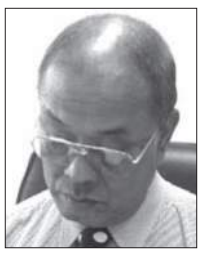
Meeting the requirements—money to pay retirees—is itself one humongous challenge. The anticipated cushion players (DB and DC) members have opted out. Obviously, retirees can't contribute into the Fund given that they've retired.

Sadly, the hangover of the boom years refuses to leave the magnificently adolescent attitude of politicians who still wish to sing *White Christmas* in July. Thus, the challenge remains: 1). Where do we find $27 million to pay retirees beginning this October? 2). What's in the future of 3,800 families?

The impending return of the 25 percent sadly reminds me of my first and last Christmas present from my late saintly mom. It was Christmas Eve when she was wrapping tiny gifts for the boys. Mine was a sports tube socks with red and black stripes. It was a gift so embedded in mind that comes nostalgically around every Christmas since then. It was my first and last gift since dad expired.

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*



The issue doesn't involve political stripes. No, sir! We all must pitch in and hopefully through deliberate discussions we could find a lasting answer both for current retirees and DB members who ought to have something to hang their hats on upon completion of services. Otherwise, start singing *Swing Low, Sweet Chariot,* we'll massage your spirit in our prayers! But this doesn't fiscally refill empty family pocketbooks ahead, does it?

Shocking discovery!

Disengagement and disconnection have given prominence to the obvious lack of leadership and vision to begin resolving the mounting fiscal collapse at home. The NMI could have worked on a comprehensive plan with goals and objectives to begin realistic plans on economic recovery. Quick fixes like casino isn't a recovery but a shocking "discovery" that the Fund is still broke! It needs $27 million by this October to meet retirees' pension pay.

The DB and DC members have severed relations with the Fund. It's the group, per design of the program that pays contributions, which are used to pay current retirees. It's basically the Ponzi scheme that is as good as dead fish in the water. No more healthy contributions. By 2018 when the Fund's investments are depleted we'd do an historic wake and funeral for the program!

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Fair and balanced development for all islands of the CNMI

During the last year, Mega Stars has learned much about the challenges and the uncertainties facing investors in the CNMI. We have devoted a tremendous amount of resources—financial resources and human resources—to rescue the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino. We settled unpaid wages, unpaid taxes, and debts. We also inherited several lawsuits that arose before our time. Just when we were starting to see the light at the end of the tunnel, we were caught with another surprise: the sudden passage of the Saipan casino law. In order to protect all that we had invested—and had committed to invest—on Tinian, we had no choice but to compete for a Saipan casino license.

We respect the Lottery Commission's decision Tuesday to award an exclusive Saipan casino license to the other applicant. We sincerely hope this will bring the much-needed economic prosperity to the people of the CNMI.

However, Tinian is also an important part of the CNMI. We hope CNMI elected officials will remember that the casino industry is a vitally important part of the economy and tax base of Tinian—and of the CNMI as a whole. We urge the CNMI's leaders to adopt a fair and balanced approach to developing all of the CNMI's islands.

We will certainly be impacted by having to compete with a mega-casino on Saipan. Before we can define our strategy moving forward, we will need time to re-assess and re-evaluate our situation. We know this much, however: We are proud to be members of the community on Tinian and in the CNMI, and hope we can remain so for years to come.

Cario Hon
CEO, Mega Stars Overseas Ltd.

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Southeast winds 5 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Southeast winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼79°	▲87° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°

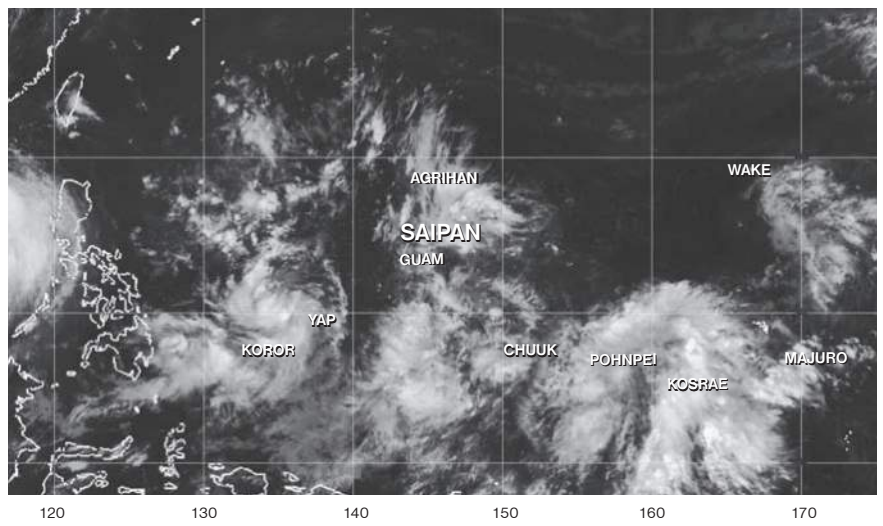
Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Thundershowers	▲83	▼77
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲81	▼79
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲81	▼79
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲81	▼79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲81	▼79
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲81	▼79
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲56	▼49
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲101	▼81
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼79
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼74
London	Mostly Sunny	▲85	▼65
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲78	▼63
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼76
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲57	▼38
Miami	Thundershowers	▲89	▼78
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲81	▼67
Osaka	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼72
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲90	▼70
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲79	▼71
Rome	Sunny	▲93	▼70
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲83	▼57
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲63	▼56
Seoul	Thundershowers	▲80	▼73
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	▲80	▼71
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼69

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, JULY 17, 2014
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A developing circulation is centered about 250 miles north of Koror near 10N135E and is the subject of a tropical cyclone formation alert issued by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring across Yap and Koror between 4N and 13N from 130E to 138E. An upper-level low centered southwest of Iwo To island near 23N139E is producing isolated thunderstorms between 21N and 23N from 132E to 136E and within 50 miles of a line from 16N130E to 18N138E. A tropical disturbance south of Guam is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms in the area bounded by 9N143E to 12N148E to 7N153E to 3N146E to 4N142E back to 9N143E including Chuuk. A weak trade-wind disturbance is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms in the area bounded by 14N148E to Saipan to 21N145E to 16N152E back to 14N148E. This is mainly just north through east of Saipan. A weak circulation centered northeast of Pohnpei near 8N159E is producing widespread cloudiness. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between the equator and a line from 7N154E to 12N161E to 7N170E. This includes Pohnpei and Kosrae but is west of Kwajalein and Majuro. A surface trough southeast of Wake Island stretches from 12N167E to 21N170E. Isolated thunderstorms are found within 150 miles of a line from 11N172E to 19N170E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

1:03 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
7:42 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet
1:11 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
7:26 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:55 AM	6:51 PM
Saturday	5:56 AM	6:51 PM
Sunday	5:56 AM	6:51 PM
Monday	5:56 AM	6:50 PM
Tuesday	5:57 AM	6:50 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	11:34 PM	11:24 AM
Saturday		12:19 PM
Sunday	12:20 AM	1:13 PM
Monday	1:06 AM	2:06 PM
Tuesday	1:53 AM	2:58 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 18, 2014

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:30pm	4:10pm	6, 7 via Rota
UA5078	3:20pm	4:10pm	1, 5
UA5038	3:20pm	4:10pm	2, 4
UA5040	7:05pm	7:55pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:50pm	11:40pm	1, 5

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	2:30pm	3:05pm	6, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	3:35pm	4:10pm	6, 7

SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)

DL287	6:05am	11:15pm	2, 6 via NRT

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	1, 3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764A	3:30am	7:30am	4, 7
MU764	4:00am	8:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:15am	8:55am	3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/473	6:05am	9:50pm	1, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:10pm	3 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:30pm	9:10pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	3:20pm	8:45pm	2 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:20pm	8:45pm	5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:20pm	9:10pm	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:20pm	9:10pm	4 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5068/179	8:00am	9:55pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:40am	9:55pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
D28009	12:50pm	4:05pm	May 18, 22, 27, June 1, 5, 10, 15, 19, 24, 29, July 3, 8, 13, 17, 22, 27, 31
UA5039/179	2:30pm	9:55pm	6 via Rota-GUM
UA5078/179	3:20pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	1:10pm	2:00pm	6, 7
UA5038	1:10pm	2:50pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5077	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 5
UA5041	5:45pm	6:35pm	1, 5
UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5043	9:30pm	10:20pm	1, 5

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038	1:10pm	1:45pm	2, 4

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	2:15pm	2:50pm	2, 4

PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN

DL298	4:30am	3:00pm	3, 7 via NRT

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	3, 4, 5, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763A	6:50pm	2:30am+1	3, 6
MU763	7:20am	3:00am+1	4, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
DL172/288	7:55am	1:25am+1	3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5039	10:25pm	2:00pm+1	6 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:25pm	2:50pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:25pm	2:50pm+1	4, 7 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5041	10:25pm	6:35pm+1	4, 7 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:25pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 6 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:25pm	10:20pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	7:30am+1	2 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	8:05am+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5039	11:30pm	2:00pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5077	11:30pm	8:05pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
D28008	6:05pm	1:20am+1	May 18, 22, 27, June 1, 5, 10, 15, 19, 24, 29, July 3, 8, 13, 17, 22, 27, 31
UA180/5071	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5039	9:55pm	2:00pm+1	5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5038	9:55pm	2:50pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA180/5077	9:55pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways; ORB: OREN AIR; D2: Dynamic Air

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A patriot or parasite lesson for leaders and retirees

It's the principal of the matter! I'm sure many readers have heard arguments, especially over money, being carried out with someone invoking that this is about the principle of the matter more than anything—the amount of money did not matter. Well, that is exactly what is happening now with the governor and leaders who have thrown our principles of governing in the trash for Communistic politics—some example for our future leaders who I know were taught better, especially in my classroom and in most government classes.

I used this title many years back in describing how many in the CNMI at that time wanted to rebuke the federal government for forcing us to do the right thing and here we are again almost a decade later with parasites reemerging in our society. It is a sad state of political affairs in the CNMI again for the coming election season. We have a governor and the GOP trying to turn our democratic republic into a Communistic commonwealth using retirees as the tip of their political spear to kill the voice of the majority. I can understand a lot of our leaders in the Legislature and retirees not even recognizing they were supporting a Communist approach to governing, given their level of education. But I expected better from Sen. Torres as he is an attorney. I truly hate to say this because I like the guy but I guess he didn't have the fortitude to respect and stick to the principles, the laws, the values and the ethics we live and govern by with the lieutenant governor's seat gleaming in his eyes.

It seems I have to deal with our leaders and some retirees the same way I used to deal with students who didn't grasp the concept or the subject matter being taught because they did not pay attention in class. I have to re-teach and reinforce the lesson. So please pay attention in class this time, leaders and retirees! If you are a patriot you do not trash the principles of America at any cost. That's why our children are fighting and dying so others they don't even know can have a democracy. Our democratic principles are just as strong and important for guiding us through life as the 10 Commandments. There are no arguments strong enough to contest the 10 Commandments and there are no arguments strong enough to contest the principles of our government being of, for and by the people. It is called America, a democratic republic! We know freedom is not free and democracy also comes at a cost and with certain sacrifices.

The retirees were being tested to momentarily sacrifice their 25 percent to preserve the integrity of our democracy but a lot of them failed the test, behaving more like a parasite than a patriot, saying to hell with our democracy and the majority of people—just give me my 25 percent. They need to know there are only two approaches to life, which is our public commitment to our government, our laws and our guiding principles and a private commitment to God, family, and our community. Yes, life is really that simple but the test presented by life can be very challenging in making us live up to these high standards.

We the people cannot afford for the GOP (Covenant) Party to remain in power any longer after 14 years as they are dividing the people, turning our government into a socialist government and acting like tyrants. It's the principles that matter most!

P.S.: There is nothing wrong with the CNMI experimenting with pot legalization given the president and the feds are supporting states reforming America's marijuana laws. We will surely make hundreds of millions regardless in the first year or two. It is a Sunshine Law that will give the people a chance to see firsthand the benefits and problems so the people can decide whether to make it permanent or not in the fourth year. The GOP has killed all attempts to legalize pot so get informed and read the proposed legalization law that I proposed so you can make an informed opinion. You just might like the law that better controls marijuana given we already have marijuana everywhere in the CNMI and throughout America.

Ambrose M Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

Message of appreciation

On behalf of the 2014 CNMI All-Stars (Major, Junior, Senior, and Big League), players, managers, coaches and all divisions All-Stars parents, we would like to express our sincere appreciation to all individuals, businesses, and community leaders who supported us with our fundraising efforts for the recently concluded 2014 Asia-Pacific Regional Baseball Tournament in Pampanga, Philippines.

Our donors include all fundraising supporters, All-Star Sporting Goods Store, Art Man Corp., Bridge Capital, LLC, Chong's Corp., D&Q International Distributors, Green Consume Market, Happy Market, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Island Apparel, J.E.T. Enterprises, Kagman Mobil, Kautz Glass Co., Manbao Corp., Mariana Resort & Spa, Mechille Corp., National Office Supply, P&A Corp., Pacific Amusement Inc., Pacific Islands Club, Paradise Island Animal Hospital, Radiocom Saipan Inc., Rep. Chris D. Leon Guerrero, Rep. Mario Taitano, Rep. Ralph N. Yumul, Rep. Richard B. Seman, House Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, TakeCare Insurance, Talaabwogh Star Association, Triple J Motors, TSL Foundation, Western Pacific Telecom, and White Coconut Computer Services.

Without your generous assistance, whether through monetary or in-kind donations, our participation in the 2014 As-Pac Tournament would not have been possible. It is with heartfelt appreciation that we extend this message to you. We kindly ask that you continue to support the Saipan Little League Association's Baseball Program.

Saipan Little League Association

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Create a **Safe Sleep Environment** for Baby

Did you know that the features of your baby's sleep area can affect his/her risk for **Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)** and other sleep-related causes of infant death, such as suffocation?

Reduce the risk of SIDS and other sleep-related causes of infant death by **creating a safe sleep environment** for your baby.

How can you make a **safe sleep environment?**

- Always place your baby to **sleep on his or her back**, for naps and at night.
- Have the baby **share your room, not your bed.** Your baby should not sleep in an adult bed, on a couch, or on a chair alone, with you, or with anyone else. Try room sharing—keeping baby's sleep area in the same room where you sleep.
- Use a **firm sleep surface**, such as a mattress in a safety-approved* crib, covered by a fitted sheet.
- Keep soft objects, toys, pillows, crib bumpers, and loose bedding **out of your baby's sleep area.**
- Dress your baby in **no more than one layer of clothing more than an adult would wear** to be comfortable, and leave the blanket out of the crib. A one-piece sleeper or wearable blanket can be used for sleep clothing. Keep the room at a temperature that is comfortable for an adult.

Safety-approved* portable play yards can also provide a safe sleep environment for your baby. When using a portable play yard, always place baby to sleep on his or her back and keep toys, pillows, and blankets out of the play yard. These actions help reduce the risk of SIDS and other sleep-related causes of infant death.

***Visit** the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission website for more information about safety-approved baby sleep areas: http://www.cpsc.gov/en/Safety-Education/Safety-Education-Centers/cribs/

*Image courtesy of the Safe to Sleep® camapaign, for educational purposes only; Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, http://safetosleep.nichd.gov; Safe to Sleep® is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

NIH *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

SAFE TO SLEEP

Learn more about ways to reduce the risk of SIDS and other sleep-related causes of infant death at
http://www.nichd.nih.gov/sids

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Get updated or get voted out

I see signs all over Saipan pleading "please vote for me" but when I look you up on the net, there's nothing there. You are invisible. Maybe your relatives know you but the 4,000 of us that don't vote don't know you. Not one sign has a www.site.com on it. Ninety percent of you have never even given an interview to the Marianas Variety or Saipan Tribune. Why? Nothing to say? It's 2014 and only one of you has had a Facebook page for more than three months (set up specifically for this election), only two are on Linkedin, only three on YouTube and those are all campaign ads. One GOP guy still lists "Hawaii National Guard" and he hasn't been a member for years so he should put "was in" or "formerly in". None of you have a footprint anywhere. The only mention anywhere for most of you is when the MV or ST mention you in a news release. How can we vote for you when we know nothing about you?

Even on your official party website, most of you don't even have a bio. When one is listed all it tells us is that you went to school, are married, and have kids, worked for Parks, CUC, or customs or whatever. Nonsense. All of it just nonsense. Most of you, apparently, have never done anything noteworthy and yet you want our vote. The GOP site has lots of candidates but only a few bios and not one word about what they believe in, what they are going to do for the CNMI. The Democrats have a site with absolutely nothing on it. Of the two independents, the Babauta site has his and Torres' bios, a "kinda" wish list but no platform and I can't even find a site for Hosfschneider and Yumul. All four have FB sites set up three to four months ago.

So, voters, unless you know these ladies and gentlemen personally, there is no way for you to know who they are, what they stand for, or indeed, if they stand for anything, or if they are statesmen, housewives, liars, farmers, corrupt former department heads, smart or just plain dumb—we just don't know.

Incumbents and/or former legislators should disqualify themselves since none have tackled any real CNMI problems. The first, last, and only reprresentative with any balls was Tina Sablan but she's smart, too smart for the CNMI and is now giving Hawaii her expertise, instead of taking the BS she apparently received daily while here. What the CNMI desperately needs right now are statesmen and stateswomen, not just a nice old grandpa that is bored and wants to junket.

If the election were next Friday, based solely on information available on the Internet, today, July 18, the 4,000 unattached voters would probably only vote for these candidates: Juan Babauta, Juan Torres, Greg Sablan Jr., Susana Guerrero, Vincent Camacho, Maryann Borja-Arriola, and Joey San Nicolas. There just isn't enough information on anyone else to make a recommendation yet. We can hope all the candidates will join 2014 and post their dreams, beliefs, and hopes for the future, and what and how they will go about achieving it for the people of the CNMI. Remember, voters, not one candidate has told us "why" we should vote for them. Demand transparency.

To past and present student reps to BOE

This is part of the mandate of the Board of Education to PSS: [to] … recognize the distinct and unique cultural heritage and indigenous way of life of the people and…be committed to provide for the language needs of the people and the preservation of their cultural integrity within a global community…." but in reality, this is a mandate for families, not the PSS. I would love to hear from the past and/or present and/or future student representatives and get your take on this and find out what you did, are doing, or going to do to make PSS more responsive to the diverse student body that is the reality of 2014. If you are unsure of what is expected of you or what you can accomplish, contact me and I can give you hundreds of tips.

The one certainty at PSS is that it is not addressing the needs of students and major changes need to be made. Just think of a PSS where an 8th grade graduate enters the 9th grade on day one and the teacher says, "Students, you have three hours to decide what you want to do and pick which direction you want to go. Do you need technical, vocational, or academic training to accomplish what you want to do in your life?" Three hours later you have your choice and the direction you are going to go. You might want to change your career path later and that will be fine, do it anytime you like. We need education for students, not administrators and teachers and board members. Their quarterly paper is called "Students First" but their actions are anything but. You student representatives, make them live up to it. Contact me at garydubrall@gmail.com.

Gary DuBrall
Chalan Piao, Saipan

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Lt. governor's chief of staff resigns to attend law school

Anthony Aguon, the chief of staff for Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider, announced his resignation on Monday, July 14, 2014. Aguon will be leaving the administration to attend the University of San Francisco School of Law.

In his resignation letter, Aguon described his time as chief of staff as an unforgettable experience.

"In such a short time, [Lt. Gov. Hofschneider] and Gov. [Eloy S.] Inos have managed to restore strength in our people and trust in our government. It was an honor to be a small part of [this] administration and I thank [the lieutenant governor] for the invaluable opportunity [he has] given me to serve on [his] team. I extend my sincerest appreciation for [his] guidance throughout the years, and [his] unwavering support in my pursuing a higher education," Aguon said.

Hofschneider said he is grateful for Aguon's service and wishes him the best in law school. "I have always encouraged our youth to pursue professional careers, and when Anthony let me know of his intentions to attend law school I gave him my full support. I applaud him for his ambition and look forward to his return to the CNMI, so that he may serve the community in a new capacity."

Aguon's resignation is effective Aug. 9, 2014, leaving the position he has held since Hofschneider took office in February 2013. ***(Office of the Lt. Governor)***

Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider has his picture taken with his staff. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Happy birthday greetings go out to our mom, Elisa Muna, who is celebrating her special day today, July 18, 2014! In every smile, every tear and every cheer you were always there for us through the years with support and providing us with all the energy we needed in order to stand in the game called life. You are the greatest and we love you to infinity and beyond. With love from the family!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 7th birthday to a bright, sweet, helpful, thoughtful, caring, and not really so little girl, Mai Janae Sakai Peters, who celebrates her birthday today, July 18. May all your wishes and dreams come true! We love you! Love always from Mommy, Daddy, your three brothers, your entire family, all your ninos and ninas, and most especially your Nino Charisma!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to Russell Hocog who celebrates his birthday today, July 18! Have a good one, son! Sorry, I can't be there to celebrate with you, but I'll bring you something nice back from America! Here's to another year! Take care and God bless! Love, your favorite nino, Charisma.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
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REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES

FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT REHABILITATION OF TAXIWAY "B" PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-001-14

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Architectural and Engineering (A/E) Design Services for the repair of Taxiway "B" at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

The project is being funded by the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package. Questions regarding this request for RFQ statements must be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant, at (670) 237-6500, faxed to (670) 234-5962 and/or emailed to wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than Friday, August 1, 2014, 4:30 p.m., local time.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Overall A/E design experience in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Island – (25 points);
2. A/E Design experience related to projects funded in whole or in part by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) – (25 points);
3. Level of proficiency in performing A/E services promptly; and level of experience with the FAA and AIP grants – (15 points);
4. The general reputation of the Consultant in terms of quality of A/E work experience and services performed for AIP projects, and the Consultant's professional integrity and competence – (15 points);
5. Capacity to accomplish the work within the contract time - (10 points); and
6. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal – (10 points).

Interested Consultants shall submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf on a compact disc of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m., Friday, AUGUST 22, 2014**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

Discussions may be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the agreement requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required.

An agreement shall be negotiated with the highest qualified architect/engineer firm or company at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then additional firms may be selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.

All responses to this RFQ shall take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the consultant awarded an agreement for this project, including excise tax.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to:
Ms. MaryAnn Q. Lizama
Executive Director
Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ JOSE R. LIFOIFOI
Board Chairman/Contracting Officer

Date: July 14, 2014

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

Division of Public Health Services
Re-opening of Dental Clinic

The Division of Public Health Services is happy to announce that the dental clinic is now in full operation with Dr. Adam J. Gentry, D.D.S. From kids to seniors, our clinic offers dental care for every member of the family. From preventive to curative services, our staff is trained to make every patient feel comfortable. We'll work with you to determine the best course of treatment, the most convenient scheduling and most appropriate financial arrangements. Please let us know what we can do to meet your family's dental needs. We look forward to providing you with quality dental care.

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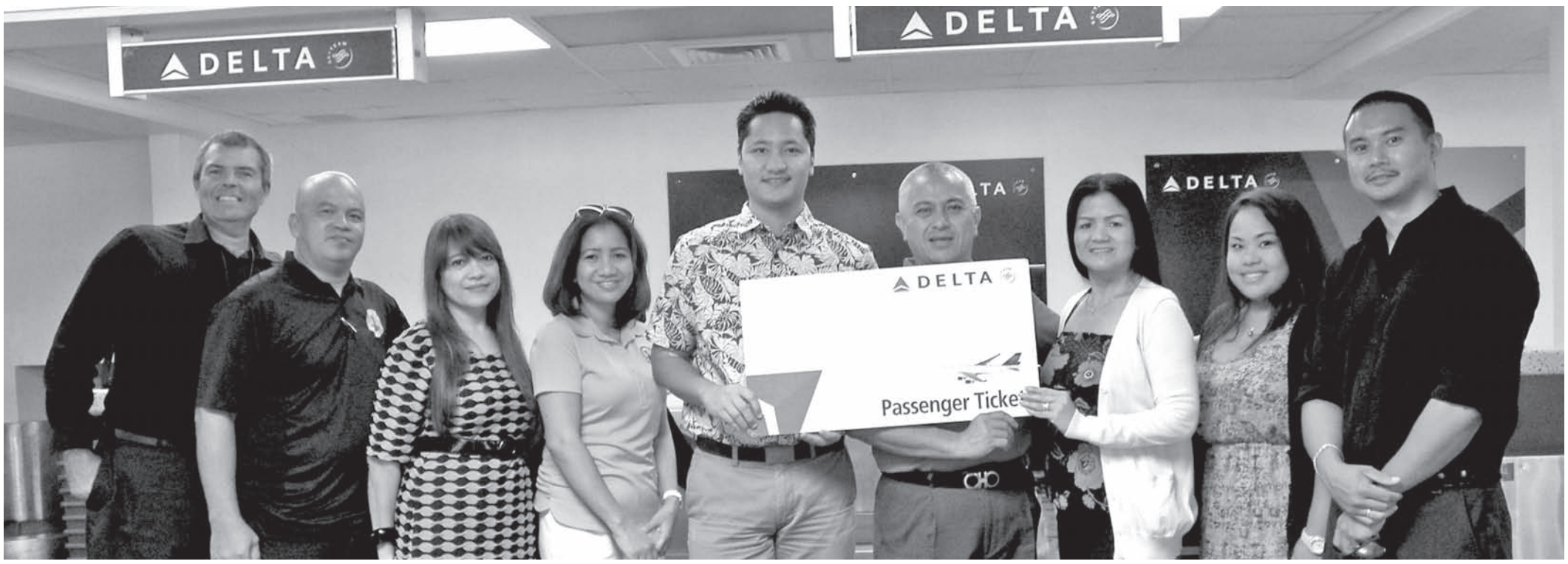
For more information/To make an appointment, please call **(670)236-8369**
Business Hours: Monday-Friday, 7:30am-4:30pm

Delta donates BusinessElite Tickets for TOC hole-in-one prize



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Delta Air Lines representatives present the two BusinessElite tickets to the United States that will be featured as one of the hole-in-one prizes at this year's 19th Annual Tournament of Champions. From left: Jeff Taylor, Boyet Centeno, Marie Sablan, Marida Pensader, Chris Concepcion, Ben Babauta, Daisy Sablan, Amanda Sablan, and Arthur Miron.

The organizers of the Tournament of Champions Golf Tournament welcomed yesterday Delta Air Lines' donation of two BusinessElite tickets to the United States, which will be featured as a hole-in-one prize at golf tournament on Aug. 2 and 3, 2014. The value of the tickets is about $15,000.

"For many years, the Tournament of Champions has raised funds that help promote the CNMI as a prime tourist destination," said Chris Concepcion of Delta Air Lines Sales and Marketing. "We are happy to support the event and look forward to another successful tourney."

"We would like to thank Delta Air Lines for its generous contribution and its commitment to the TOC year after year," said tournament director Ben Babauta. "The hole-in-one prize is sure to entice players to join the tournament."

The 19th Annual Tournament of Champions will be played at the LaoLao Bay Golf and Resort's East & West Courses on Aug. 2 and 3. The two-day event is bigger and better than ever with exciting hole-in-one prizes and the chance to win thousands of dollars in possible prizes. The TOC tournament fee is $185.

First place winners in the Men's Championship, A, B, C, Senior and Super Senior Flights will each receive $500 cash, $400 for second, $300 for third, a digital camera to fourth, and $100 DFS gift certificate for fifth place.

The Ladies Low Gross champion will receive $500, $400 for second, and $300 for third place. The first, second, and third place winners of the Ladies Low Net will receive a trophy.

There will be hundreds of thousands worth of prizes that will be at stake in the two-day tournament, including hole-in-one prizes that include various vehicles donated by Joeten Motors, Atkins Kroll, and Triple J Motors. If that's not impressive enough, Saipan Laolao Golf & Resort is offering one year of free golf as another hole-in-one prize as well.

The tournament will also be featuring $1,000 cash prizes for closest to pin competitions.

Since its inception, TOC has given over $600,000 to the Saipan Beautification Fund, which has gone directly to the improvements of the tree-lined traffic medians that stretch from Garapan to the former Palm Resort Saipan, as well as the revitalization of the Garapan special district. In addition, TOC also contributed funds for the Paseo de Marianas, the lighting of the Saipan Beach Pathway, and most recently the beautification of the Port to Park pathway.

"We are proud of our continued commitment to enhance the beauty of Saipan for our tourists and residents," Babauta said. "It is the generous support of our golfers, sponsors, and committee members that make this event possible."

For more information about sponsorship opportunities for the 2014 TOC, contact Babauta at 483-2563 or Marida Pensader at 236-2530. ***(PR)***

Election Commission to conduct voter registration drives in Guam

The Commonwealth Election Commission would like to advice all CNMI residents both in the CNMI and those residing in Guam who are U.S. citizens that the commission will be conducting voter registration drives in Guam on Aug. 21 through Aug. 23, 2014.

Times for the registration drive in Guam will be 10am to 6pm on Aug. 21 and 22 and from 9am to 4pm on Aug. 23.

The registration drive will be at the Verona Hotel in Tumon. Individuals must provide either a copy of a valid U.S. passport or a copy of a certificate of live birth to register.

In addition, the Commonwealth Election Commission would like to remind all CNMI resident that the commission's office in Susupe will continue to conduct voter registrations every Saturday, which started on May 3, 2014, from 10am to 2pm for those CNMI residents who would like to vote during the 2014 general election to be held on Nov. 4, 2014. Again, individuals must provide either a copy of a valid U.S. passport or a copy of a certificate of live birth to register.

Last day to register to vote for the 2014 general election is Friday, Sept. 5, 2014.

Lastly, the Commission would also like to remind all individuals who are interested in seeking a seat during the upcoming 2014 general election that the last day to file their petitions for candidacy packet is on Wednesday, Aug. 6, 2014, at the commission's office in Susupe, Saipan. Individuals on Tinian and Rota may file their candidacy petition packet with the commission's staff at the Department of Public Safety offices on each island between the hours of 1pm and 4pm on Wednesday, Aug. 6, 2014.

For more information on the above announcement, you must contact the Commonwealth Election Commission office at 664-VOTE (8683). ***(CEC)***

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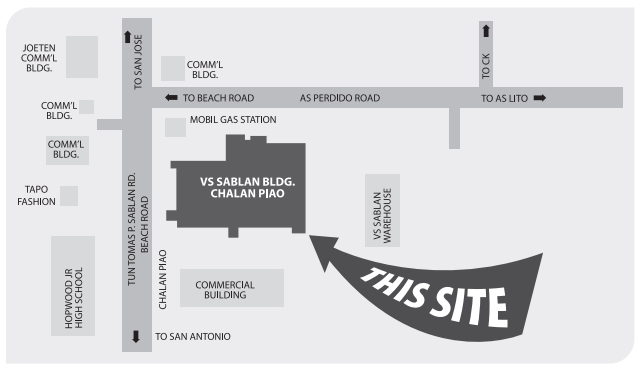

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Levesque completes sprawling Micronesian Encyclopedia

Former Saipan resident Rod Rod Levesque has finished what he calls his masterpiece: the 48-volume encyclopedia *A History of Micronesia: A Collection of Source Documents.*

Levesque, who described himself as a translator, researcher, writer, and one-time UN consultant, said he was first inspired to tell the story of Micronesia in the 1980s.

He said he was flying over Micronesia to Manila in 1981when he learned the United States had allowed tourists into Micronesia for the first time. Levesque, a world-traveling Canadian, saw an opportunity. He changed his flight plans when he arrived in Honolulu and boarded a plane to Micronesia, landing on Johnston Island, where he recalls being told, "No photographs."

According to Levesque, it was this experience of intrigue and mystery and the lack of history about Micronesia, compared to Polynesia and even Melanesia, that inspired him to start his decades-long project.

"I decided to let the world know about Micronesia and its interesting past," Levesque said.

Over the years he relentlessly pursued the project, scouring archives, libraries, and institutions of a dozen countries and languages to find source material—all of which he photocopied, photographed, or typed into a few laptops.

According to Levesque, he translated 10 of the languages himself but was assisted by other translators for German and Japanese. "My Japanese translator took 10 years to do the work I gave her to do."

Contents of his encyclopedia include canoe routes used by early Micronesians, the first maps of the Pacific during Columbus' time, logbooks and narratives of European sailormen traveling through Micronesia in the 1800s, legal documents by colonial Spanish authorities, and personal documents of Catholic officials, like diaries and even poetry. Other documents cover shipwrecks, typhoons, trade, and population statistics.

Series 1 of his encyclopedia spans three centuries, from 1521 to 1819, and consists of 28 volumes.

According to Levesque, each volume of the first series contained more than 700 pages and weighed as much 5 lbs.

Levesque claims he invested over $1 million in printing and publishing the books, which were made available for distribution by University of Hawaii Press during the mid-90s.

But because of a lack of funds, Series 2, which would have completed his work, was put on hold.

Because of this, Levesque said he decided to publish the final volumes as seven electronic book or CD-ROMS, as soon as specialized scanners became available to convert them to pdf files.

From 1819 to 1945, Series 2 continues where the first series left off and closes at the end of World War II.

"I have reproduced facsimiles of documents about Micronesian languages, and other specialized topics, such as rare Spanish maps and charts and a couple of entire atlases of the islands of Micronesia," he said.

As an international consultant, Levesque has worked for the United Nations in African countries like Zaire, Ghana, and Somalia, to name a few. He also served in the Canadian Armed Forces for 17 years and worked for the Canadian International Development Agency in Latin American countries.

His encyclopedia is available for order on www.levesquepublications.com and www.uhpress.hawaii.edu/p-5734-9780000000000.aspx

The printed volumes for the first series cost $100 to $110. For the final 28 volumes, the e-books cost $500, plus $20 postage.

Levesque lived on Saipan part-time between 1984 and 1986, when his wife Virginia was director of the School of Nursing. He can be contacted at levesrod@hotmail.com or at Levesque Publications, 189 Dufresne, Gatineau, Quebec, Canada J8R 3E1. ***(Dennis B. Chan)***

NMC reintroduces liberal arts degree with emphasis in education

To meet the increasing demand for programs focused on teaching, the Northern Marianas College has reintroduced the liberal arts degree with an emphasis in education. This degree aims to assist students by exposing them to a wide range of courses and disciplines that help them smoothly transition into NMC's Bachelors of Science in Education degree program.

Since the degree is also designed as a transfer degree, students will be able to transfer to other colleges or universities where they can then enroll in a program comparable to NMC's Bachelors of Science in Education degree program.

Velma C. Deleon Guerrero, the Liberal Arts coordinator for NMC said, "By re-introducing this degree it will not only help future teachers who enroll in the School of Education, but it will also help other school personnel who want to further their education and serve their schools better."

"I myself transferred with an associate's degree in Liberal Arts from NMC into the School of Education bachelor's program, so I understand the value of this particular degree program," Deleon Guerrero added. "This liberal arts degree with an emphasis in education will make it easier for students to learn more about education and prepare for a career in serving our students and our community."

As part of the program, students will study and gain a wide variety of skills and aptitudes that will enable them to better understand and function in a kindergarten, elementary, or secondary school teaching setting.

These skills and aptitudes include patiently working with children; fulfilling organizational, administrative and record keeping tasks related to schooling; researching and communicating more effectively; influencing, motivating and training others; effectively problem-solving; developing analytical and critical thinking skills to help students learn; and creatively innovate and adapt in a school setting.

The individual degree plan for the associates in liberal arts with an emphasis in Education has replaced an older version, which was last revised on April 25, 2013. ***(NMC)***

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 • Tel.: (670) 664-2375 • Fax: (670) 664-2408

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS PROJECT MANAGEMENT (CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES & QUALITY ASSURANCE) for the PUERTO RICO DUMP CLOSURE RFQ 14-GOV-124

Governor Eloy S. Inos, and Lieutenant Governor Jude Hofschneider through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Office, (collectively, "Commonwealth") are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified consultants to provide Project Management to include Construction Management (CM) and Construction Quality Assurance (CQA) Services for the Closure of the Puerto Rico Dump(PRD) located at Puerto Rico, Saipan MP.

Procurement procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, or latest revision thereof. Public Law 15-95 (Local Preference Act) as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

Project Construction Plans and the complete Scope of Work for the CM and CQA Services required is available at the Governor's CIP Administrator's Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, CNMI. A non-refundable payment of One Hundred Dollars (US $100.00) is required. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the CIP Office. There will be a pre-proposal conference at the Governor's Conference Room on Friday, July 11, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. Questions regarding this RFQ must be submitted in writing to Ms. Elizabeth S. Balajadia, Project Manager to fax no. (670) 664-2408 or email to balajadiaelizabeth@hotmail.com no later than 4:00 p.m. ChST Thursday, July 17, 2014.

Statements of professional qualification from interested firms must address, and will be evaluated on the following criteria:

A. Overall construction management experience in the Western Pacific Region, and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands - (20%)
B. Specialized experience and technical competence in the type of work required and previous experience with projects similar in scope - (25%)
C. Key personnel's professional qualifications, experience and availability for the proposed services; their professional integrity and competence; and their knowledge of the applicable regulations, policies and procedures regarding closures of landfills - (20%)
D. Past performance on similar projects, including cost control, ability to meet schedules, and quality of completed construction - (20%)
E. Current workload and demonstrated ability to perform the project Scope of Work - (15%)
F. Fee - (0%)

To qualify, firms must have a valid CNMI Business License, and be currently licensed to practice engineering in the CNMI. Firms shall also submit an estimate of CM fees based upon a 12-month project schedule. Fee estimates will assist the CIP Office for budgeting purposes, but will not be considered in firm evaluation scores.

Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330. Only professionally licensed firms with a valid CNMI business license will be considered.

Discussions shall be conducted with the top three (3) ranked firms. After a selection is made, negotiations will be conducted with the highest qualified firm to determine the final fair and reasonable price of the contract for the work to be performed. The selected firm will be subjected to a responsibility and responsiveness determination in compliance with Section 3-301 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

Qualifications statements must be sealed and marked "RFQ14-GOV-124 , Project Management (Construction Management and Construction Quality Assurance Services for the Puerto Rico Dump Closure". For proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of the qualifications statement must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, MP, no later than 9:00 a.m. ChST, Tuesday, August 5, 2014. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 9:00 a.m. ChST, Tuesday, August 5, 2014, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of the sealed qualifications statement must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than Tuesday, August 5, 2014, and must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than Thursday, August 14, 2014 ChST. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies of the proposal may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interests of the CNMI government. All proposals shall become the sole property of the CNMI government.

/s/Eloy S. Inos, Governor /s/Herman S. Sablan, Director of Procurement & Supply

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Lenovo 708T 5.5″ 8gb $249	Samsung Tab3 7″ 8gb $249	Apple Ipad Mini 7.9″ 16gb $359	Unicom Tab82 7″ 8gb $100	Rechargeable Speaker 8″/12″/15″ $140

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Business

Latest Fed survey sees improved economy

WASHINGTON (AP)—The economy kept expanding in all regions of the country in June and early July, helped by strength in consumer spending, a Federal Reserve survey released Wednesday indicates.

All 12 of the Fed's regions reported growth with five—New York, Chicago, Minneapolis, Dallas and San Francisco—characterizing growth as "moderate" while the others reported "modest" growth. Boston and Richmond reported that growth came in at a slightly slower pace than the previous reporting period.

The Fed's survey, known as the Beige Book, will be used by central bank officials when they next meet July 29-30 to review interest rate policies.

Analysts expect that the Fed will decide to keep its short-term interest rate at a record low near zero and authorize another reduction in its bond purchases aimed at keeping long-term interest rates low.

Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen, who spent two days delivering the Fed's twice-a-year policy report to Congress, emphasized before both Senate and House committees that despite recent sizable gains in employment, the central bank is in no rush to withdraw the massive support it is providing to the economy.

The Fed has kept its benchmark short-term rate at zero since December 2008, and many analysts believe the first rate increase is still about a year away.

AP

In this June 6, 2014 photo, servers Lindsey Hayden, second from left, and Emma Franz serve lunch to patrons at Coppertop restaurant in Valley City, Ohio.

The Beige Book survey was compiled from information gathered by the Fed's 12 regional banks in the period before July 7. The report said that consumer spending had increased in every district with auto sales generally stronger than other retail sales.

Tourism remained strong with hotels in the Boston, New York, Atlanta and Minneapolis districts describing room demand as robust.

The report said that many districts reported low inventories of homes for sales and rising home prices. But Boston, New York and St. Louis said that sales were below year-ago levels.

All 12 districts reported job gains with several districts saying that businesses were reporting difficulties in filling positions for skilled workers. Aside from wage increases to attract certain skilled workers, the districts said that wage pressures remained modest.

Manufacturing activity expanded in all 12 districts, the report said, with activity described as robust in New York, Atlanta, Chicago, Minneapolis and San Francisco while the other districts reporting more modest gains.

Manufacturing gains were helped by strength in autos, metals and the aerospace industry.

Economists said the anecdotal reports contained in the Beige Book broadly supported their view that economic growth rebounded in the second quarter after weather problems caused a steep drop in output in the first three months of the year.

Dana Saporta, an economist with Credit Suisse, said the Fed survey depicted a moderate "if not particularly robust" economic recovery, helped by higher consumer spending, increased manufacturing, stronger bank lending and stronger labor markets.

The Fed beginning in December started reducing its monthly bond purchases which have been aimed at keeping long-term interest rates low. Yellen said this week that Fed officials expect to wrap up those purchases at the October meeting.

The Fed has repeated that the federal funds rate, the key short-term interest rate it controls, will likely remain near zero for a considerable time after the bond purchases end. Many officials don't expect the first rate increase to occur until next summer.

But Yellen did say in her testimony before the Senate and House banking committees that if labor market conditions continue to improve more quickly than the Fed is anticipating, the central bank could boost short-term rates sooner and more rapidly than currently expected.

Apple may refund $400M in digital book settlement

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Apple will refund up to $400 million to consumers ensnared in a plot to raise the prices of digital books unless the company gets a court to overturn a decision affirming its pivotal role in the collusion.

The settlement bill emerged in a Wednesday court filing made a month after attorneys suing Apple notified U.S. District Judge Denise Cote in New York that an agreement had been reached to avoid a trial over the issue.

Lawsuits filed on behalf of digital book buyers had originally been seeking damages of up to $840 million after Cote ruled in a separate trial last year that Apple Inc. had violated U.S. antitrust law by orchestrating a price-fixing scheme with five major publishers of electronic books.

Cote's decision sided with the U.S. Justice Department's contention that Apple's late CEO, Steve Jobs, had schemed with major e-book publishers to charge higher prices in response to steep discounts offered by Amazon.com Inc. Jobs, who died in October 2011, negotiated the deals as Apple was preparing to release the first iPad in 2010.

Apple is appealing Cote's decision from last year. The Cupertino, California, company won't have to pay the $400 million settlement if it prevails. If the appeals court voids Cote's verdict and returns the case to her for further review, Apple would still have to refund $50 million to consumers. No money will be owed if the appeals court concludes that Apple didn't break any antitrust laws.

"Apple did not conspire to fix e-book pricing, and we will continue to fight those allegations on appeal," the company said in a statement. "We did nothing wrong and we believe a fair assessment of the facts will show it."

A decision on Apple's appeal, now in the Second Circuit in New York, might not be issued for another year, according to Wednesday's filing. Consumer attorneys in the case are still hoping to get Cote's preliminary approval of the settlement.

If its appeal is rejected, it would be more of a blow to Apple's image than its finances. The company can easily afford to refund the money, given it has about $150 billion in cash.

Millions of electronic book buyers will be eligible for refunds if Cote's decision is upheld, though the precise number wasn't spelled out Wednesday. More than 23 million consumers received notices of a $166 million settlement previously reached with the five book publishers found to be conspiring with Apple. Those publishers are Hachette, HarperCollins, Macmillian, Penguin and Simon & Schuster.

Consumers who bought e-books from those five publishers from April 1, 2010 through May 21, 2012 will be eligible for a slice of the settlement fund. To qualify, the consumers also must have lived in in one of the 19 states covered in a class action lawsuit or Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa or the Northern Marina Islands at the time of the purchase.

Some of the settlement proceeds also will be distributed by the attorneys general in 33 states and territories involved in the case.

Century Hotel
is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following positions:

A/C Refrigeration Mechanic (1)
Qualification: Requires post-secondary instruction from technical and trade schools or community colleges that offer programs in air-conditioning and refrigeration , or an associate's degree. Completion of apprenticeship program or two (2) to four (4) years of experience. Able to install and repair industrial and commercial refrigeration systems. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, holidays, weekends and nights.

Guest Relations Agent (1)
Qualification: High School diploma or equivalent, two (2) years experience in providing quality customer and personal service. This includes customer needs assessment, meeting quality standards for service and evaluation of customer satisfaction. Must be able to handle customer complaints with efficiency. Multi-tasking skills, detail oriented and effective problem solving are essential. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, holidays and weekends and nights.

General Maintenance Worker (1)
Qualification: Minimum of 2 years work experience as a handyman preferably in a hotel or in a similar large building or complex with a central plant. Willingness to work outside (if necessary) in inclement weather. Must be able to carry and lift heavy objects. Possession of a valid CNMI driver's license is required. Perform work involving skills of two or more maintenance craft occupations to keep machines, mechanical equipment or the structure of an establishment in repair. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, holidays, weekends and nights. High School diploma or equivalent.

Guest Relations Senior Supervisor (1)
Qualification: High School diploma or equivalent training in vocational schools , related on-the-job experience or an associate's degree in hospitality or hotel management. 2 years experience in supervisory/managerial capacity in a high volume hotel is preferred. Must be able to supervise, train and coordinate all activities of the front desk ensuring the establishment is run effectively and profitably.

Housekeeping Cleaner (1)
Qualification: High School diploma or equivalent. Minimum of 6 months work experience in a hotel is preferred. Able to speak and write English. Ability to speak basic foreign language is a plus. Good customer service skills are essential. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, holidays, weekends and nights. Must be able to lift and carry heavy objects.

Interested applicants may obtain and submit application form from Fiesta Resort & Spa's security office located at the South Wing of the Resort.
To be considered, all applications must be submitted no later than July 18, 2014.
Background check and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Century Hotel is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
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989-4189 (c)

pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re The Matter Of The Petition To Appoint General Guardianship For: C.J.F.M. (5/16/1999) Minor Child
By: Jeremy Mendiola & Josephing F. Mendiola Petitioners

FCD GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 14-0234

NOTICE OF HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on August 7, 2014 at 10:30a.m. in Courtroom 205A, before Honorable Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 5th day of June 2014.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
/s/
By: Deputy Clerk of Court

JENNIFER DOCKTER
Law Office of F. Matthew Smith, LLC
2nd Floor, MIC Building, Chalan Monsignor Guerrero
San Jose Village
P.O. Box 501127
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: (670) 234-7455/234-7427
Facsimile No.: (670) 234-7256

Attorney for Petitioner Edward T. Benavente.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Estate of LIBBY JO CARPENTER Deceased.

Civil Action No. 14-0139

NOTICE OF HEARING and NOTICE TO CREDITORS and NOTICE OF MOTION FOR DECLARATORY JUDGMENT

Date: August 19, 2014
Time: 1:30 p.m.
Judge: Honorable David A. Wiseman

TO: THE HEIRS, GENERAL PUBLIC AND CREDITORS OF THE DECEDENTS OR OF THEIR ESTATE

Notice is hereby given that the Petitioner, Edward Tenorio Benavente has filed a Petition For Letters of Administration and a Motion For Declaratory Judgment in the above-entitled Estate proceeding pursuant to Rule NMI R. of Prob. P. 15.

A hearing on the petition and motion will be conducted by the Court on **August 19, 2014 at 1:30 p.m.** in Courtroom 223, Superior Court. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, if any, why the order should not be made.

Pursuant to NMI R. of Prob. P. 21, notice is hereby given to all creditors of the Decedent or his Estate that they must file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of the publication of this notice. A copy of the claim of any creditor should be sent to Jennifer Dockter at the above indicated address.

Reference is hereby made to the petition for further particulars.

SO NOTICED this 7th day of July, 2014.

/S/ JENNIFER DOCKTER (F0465)
Attorney for Petitioner

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA, Plaintiff, -v- JOHN HENRY I. TAGABUEL and MICHELLE T. IGINOEF, aka MICHELLE MARIA I. TAGABUEL, Defendants.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0302

FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on July 30, 2013, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot no. 010 K 77, situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 901 square meters, more or less, as more particularly shown on Drawing/Cadastral Plat no. 010 K 01, the original of which was recorded August 19, 1987, as File no. 87-2911, at the Office of Commonwealth Recorder.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, August 15, 2014, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, THIS 14TH DAY OF July, 2014:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

Nation

AP

This combination photo of two images shows a family photo of Sophia Steffel, left, and a retouched version by Jillian Johnston of Mountain View, Calif. Days after the infant daughter of Nathen Steffel died in a Cincinnati hospital from complications from a tumor in her liver, he asked users on the Reddit website if someone could alter the hospital photo.

Dad's heartbreaking Internet plea spurs flood of responses

TOLEDO, Ohio (AP)—Just days after his infant daughter's death, Nathen Steffel asked strangers on the Internet for only one thing: He and his wife wanted a photo of their daughter without the breathing tubes and tape that masked her little face.

The response has been overwhelming.

Hundreds of photos, sketches and paintings have poured into the family's northwestern Ohio home and their inbox.

"I'm getting messages in languages from all over the world," Steffel said Wednesday. "It's more than I can count."

His daughter, Sophia, died last Thursday at a Cincinnati hospital from complications of a tumor in her liver, six weeks after she was born in Columbus. She was awaiting a transplant when she died.

Her father posted a message on Reddit asking if anyone could use their photo of Sophia in the hospital and remove the tubes attached to her face and wrist. "Since she was in the hospital her whole life we never were able to get a photo without all her tubes," he wrote.

"It started because I just wanted one picture," said Steffel, who lives in the village of Kalida with his wife, Emily, and their two sons.

He initially was not sure about posting the request online because he was worried someone might respond rudely. "I guess the best has outweighed the negative," he said.

So far, they have received thousands of messages expressing support and hundreds of photos. Someone else is sending a woven blanket with Sophia's picture.

David Valdez, who has been painting portraits for several years, made a digital painting of Sophia within a few hours of seeing her father's message.

"I was having a bad day when I saw this guy asking for a photo. I just started painting," said Valdez, a college student from New Braunfels, Texas. "It brought me some sort of sense of relief to help someone out."

Attorney: Woman had no reason to kill Google exec

SANTA CRUZ, Calif. (AP)—A woman accused by police of being a high-priced prostitute and abandoning a Google executive after shooting him up with a fatal dose of heroin would never have wanted him to die because he was paying her well, a defense attorney said Wednesday.

"There was no intent to harm or injure Mr. Hayes," said Larry Biggam, whose Santa Cruz firm has been appointed to represent defendant Alix Tichelman. "Why would she? He was a lucrative source of income to her."

As her parents watched quietly from the front row of a courtroom packed with media, Tichelman, 26, pleaded not guilty to prostitution, drug use and manslaughter in the death of Forrest Hayes, 51.

Her eyes were often closed during the proceedings, but she told Judge Timothy Volkmann "yes sir" when asked if she agreed to waive her right to a preliminary hearing within 10 days.

Tichelman

Hayes was found dead by the captain of his 50-foot yacht *Escape* last November. But the circumstances of his death were not widely known until last week, when Santa Cruz police arrested Tichelman after luring her 160 miles south from Folsom with a fake story about a client who wanted to hire her at an upscale resort.

Police detective Laurel Shonfield said video surveillance from the yacht shows Tichelman injecting Hayes with heroin "and doing nothing to render aid when he overdoses," according to court records.

Tichelman has wealthy parents and dual citizenship in the U.S. and Canada, and was preparing to move out of California when she was arrested, Shonfield said.

VA a no show; store workers fix vet's wheelchair

NEW YORK (AP)—What the Veterans Administration failed to do for double amputee Michael Sulsona in two years, some New York hardware store workers delivered in an hour: They fixed his broken wheelchair.

The 62-year-old Vietnam veteran said he petitioned the VA for a new chair two years ago and received no reply. Then his wheelchair broke last week.

When Sulsona was in a Lowe's home improvement store on Staten Island, a bolt on the already worn-out wheelchair snapped and a back wheel was about to fall off. Three Lowe's employees stayed late after their 10 p.m. closing time to do the repair, for free.

"They said, `You're not leaving till it's like new again,'" Sulsona recalled.

The next day, Sulsona wrote a letter to his local newspaper, the Staten Island Advance, to thank the store's employees.

"I kept thanking them and all they could say was, `It was our honor,'" he wrote. "The actions of these three employees at Lowe's showed me there are some who still believe in stepping to the plate. ... Someone needed help and they felt privileged to be given the opportunity."

Sulsona, an ex-Marine, said he lost his legs in 1971 during an explosion while on patrol.

After his letter to the newspaper, the VA got word of Sulsona and sent him a brand-new wheelchair Tuesday.

Sulsona's new chair arrived in the wake of months of scandal in the VA's health care unit over complaints nationwide of long wait times and poor patient care.

FIESTA Resort & SPA SAIPAN
A TanHoldings Company

is inviting qualified U.S. Citizens to apply for the following vacant positions

Maintenance Coordinator (1)
Qualifications: Requires three (3) years of satisfactory performance as a Maintenance Coordinator; or any combination of related education and experience in the assigned area; or up to four (4) years of college courses in civil engineering, construction management or related field. Must have the ability to read, write, analyze & interpret orally & written effectively; ability to interpret and administer contracts for construction, and/or operational services.

Maintenance Manager (1)
Qualifications: High School diploma or equivalent. Minimum of six (6) years experience in hotel maintenance plus 2 years in supervisory level. Able to supervise, manage and coordinate the activities of mechanics, installers and repairers. Good judgment, decision making skills, and time management skills. Prefer some technical courses. Must know how to read floor plan and electrical diagram. Valid driver's license and reliable transportation. Must be able to work flexible schedule including holidays, weekends and nights.

Electrician (2)
Qualifications: High School graduate or equivalent. Minimum of five (5) years work experience required. Provide access for future maintenance and avoid unreliable wiring, consistent with verification and electrical codes, and other related duties as assigned. Capable of reading schematic diagram, and electrical symbols, knowledgeable on industrial electricity, circuit breakers, switches and controls. Must to work in a flexible way that allows for changes in assignments and priorities depending upon identified needs of the department. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, holidays, weekends and nights.

International Cook (5)
Qualifications: High school diploma; graduate from independent and vocational cooking schools, professional culinary institutes or a college degree in appropriate field or equivalent. At least three (3) years experience in a five-star Hotel, Club, or Resort. Must be able to prepare, season, and cook a wide range of international dishes such as soups, meats, vegetables, salads, entrees, and desserts in the Resort. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, holidays, weekends and nights.

Baker (2)
Qualifications: High school graduate or equivalent. Some previous work-related skill, knowledge or experience preferably in a hotel. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, holidays, weekends and nights.

Demi Chef (2)
Qualifications: High school diploma or equivalent, or postsecondary instruction from vocational schools. Minimum of four (4) years work experience as a Demi-Chef preferably in hotel. Comprehensive knowledge of kitchen hygiene practices and occupational health and safety standards is essential. Supervise and coordinates activities of kitchen operation and personnel. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, holidays, weekends and nights.

A/C Refrigeration Mechanic/Technician (1)
Qualifications: Require post-secondary instruction from technical and trade schools or community colleges that offer programs in air-conditioning and refrigeration or and associate's degree. Completion of an apprenticeship program or two (2) to four (4) years of experience. Able to install and repair industrial and commercial refrigeration systems. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, holidays, weekends and nights.

General Maintenance Worker/Repairer (1)
Qualifications: Minimum of two (2) years work experience as a Handyman preferably in a hotel or in a similar large building or complex with central plant. Willingness to work outside (if necessary) in inclement weather. Must be able to carry and lift heavy objects. Possession of a valid driver's license is essential. Perform work involving skills of two or more maintenance craft occupations to keep machines, mechanical equipment, or the structure of an establishment in repair. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, holidays, weekends and nights.

Housekeeper (5)
Qualifications: High School graduate or equivalent. Minimum 6 months work experience preferably in a hotel. Must be able to speak and write in English. Ability to speak basic foreign language is a plus. Good customer service skills are essential. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, holidays, weekends and nights.

Tailor/Dressmaker (1)
Qualifications: Minimum of Three (3) years work experience as a dressmaker preferably in a hotel. Must be able to think creatively. Is able to design, make draperies, repair or fit garments. Must have an interest in fashion, color and style. Must have ability to work quickly, accurately and independently in a fast-paced environment. Able to work a variable schedule on occasion including weekends.

Housekeeping Supervisor (6)
Qualifications: High school graduate or equivalent. A few months to one year of supervisory/managerial capacity, in a five-star hotel, club, or resort. Preferably some basic knowledge of the hotel industry. Must directly supervise and coordinate work activities of cleaning personnel in the hotel. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, holidays, weekends and nights.

Night Auditor (1)
Qualifications: College Diploma or Equivalent certificate, in a hotel or resort. Must have at least two (2) years experience in hotel internal auditing. Must be willing to work flexible night duty/graveyard schedule, weekends, holidays and extended work hours. Understanding of business processes and work flow design. Strong financial analytical background and must be knowledgeable on Microsoft office applications and other software are essential. Good communication and interpersonal skills are necessary. Also responsible in handling of company general funds. Ability to pay close attention to detail with a high degree of accuracy, adapt to changes in work environment, work as assignments and/or changes in priorities.

Guest Relations Supervisor (3)
Qualifications: High school diploma or equivalent training in vocational schools, related on-the-job experience, or an associate's degree in hospitality or hotel management. One to four years or supervisory/managerial capacity, in a five-star hotel, club, or resort. Preferably some basic knowledge of the hotel industry. Must be able to supervise and coordinate the activities of guest relations workers to make sure that guests on vacation or business travel have a pleasant experience, while also ensuring the establishment is run efficiently and profitably. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, holidays, weekends and nights.

Wait Staff (19)
Qualifications: High school diploma/GED preferred. At least 6 months serving experience required or 6 months current hosting experience. Restaurant and Beverages experience preferred. Proven knowledge of Micros or equivalent computer software and cash check, credit card handling procedures required. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, holidays, weekends and nights.

Guest Services Agent (4)
Qualifications: Must have minimum of 2 years work experience in providing quality customer and personal services. This includes customer needs assessment, meeting quality standards for service and evaluation of customer satisfaction. Must be able to handle customer complaints with efficiency. High School diploma or GED certificate. Must be able to work variable schedule including nights, weekends and holidays. Must have multitasking skills, be detailed-oriented, and be able to solve problems in order to effectively deal with internal and external customers.

Applications may be obtained and submitted to our Security Office located on the South Wing of Fiesta Resort & Spa.
Dead-line for submission of applications is July 28, 2014 to be considered.

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Asia

Typhoon kills 38 in Philippines, spares Manila

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A typhoon that barreled through the northern Philippines left at least 38 people dead and knocked out power in entire provinces and forced more than half a million people to flee its lethal wind and rains, officials said Thursday.

Most businesses, malls and banks in the Philippine capital reopened a day after Typhoon Rammasun left the country but schools remained closed Thursday as workers cleaned up storm debris, which littered roads around Manila, slowing traffic.

The eye of the typhoon made a late shift away from Manila on Wednesday, but its peak winds of 150 kilometers (93 miles) per hour and gusts up to 185 kph (115 mph) toppled trees and electric posts and ripped off roofs across the capital.

Although Rammasun packed far less power than Typhoon Haiyan, haunting memories of last year's horrific storm devastation prompted many villagers to rapidly move.

More than 500,000 of over 1 million people affected by the typhoon fled to emergency shelters in about a dozen provinces and the Philippine capital, said Alexander Pama, executive director of the National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council.

Pama said at least 38 people died in the wake of the typhoon and 10 were reported missing.

Authorities said most of casualties were hit by falling trees or concrete walls or by flying debris. One volunteer firefighter who was hauling down a Philippine flag in suburban Pasig city was killed by a concrete block, said Francis Tolentino, chairman of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority.

Electricity has been restored to most of the capital's 12 million people, but large swaths of provinces southeast of Manila which bore the brunt of the typhoon still had no power, Pama said.

Manila Mayor Joseph Estrada said his city staged anti-disaster drills two weeks ago to prepare and was relieved that only a few residents were injured. There was relatively little flooding in the Philippine capital.

At Manila's international airport, the left wing of a Singapore Airlines Boeing 777 was damaged after powerful gusts pushed it against a bridge passageway, manager Angel Honrado said. No one was injured.

Pama said the typhoon destroyed more than 7,000 houses and damaged more than 19,000. About $1 million in infrastructure was destroyed and at least $14 million in crops and livestock were lost, he said.

Mayor Cherilie Mella Sampal of Polangui town in Albay, one of the hardest hit provinces southeast of Manila, said 10,000 of her 80,000 constituents, abandoned their homes before the typhoon, many worried after witnessing Haiyan's deadly aftermath in the central Philippines last November.

At least 6,300 people died and more than 1,000 were left missing from Haiyan, one of the most ferocious typhoons to hit land.

Although Rammasun slightly weakened as it scythed across the country's main northern Luzon Island, it may strengthen over the South China Sea before reaching either Vietnam or southern China, according to government forecasters.

Rammasun, the Thai term for god of thunder, is the seventh storm to batter the Philippines this year. About 20 typhoons and storms lash the archipelago on the western edge of the Pacific each year, making it one of the world's most disaster-prone countries.

AP

Firemen remove the branches from a fallen tree which fell on two cars at the onslaught of Typhoon Rammasun (locally known as Glenda) which battered Makati city, east of Manila, Philippines Wednesday, July 16, 2014.

China moves oil rig out of waters Vietnam claims

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—China on Wednesday moved an oil rig out of waters claimed by Hanoi after two months of drilling that triggered a near-breakdown in ties between the neighbors and led to deadly protests in Vietnam.

Withdrawing the rig from near the Paracel Islands in the South China Sea reduces the immediate risk of a naval standoff but will do little to mend relations between the two countries. Beijing made it clear it was shifting the billion-dollar rig because it had completed its work, not because of the criticism of its actions.

Vietnam demanded that China never deploy a rig again in waters it claims in the region.

"Vietnam is determined to defend its sovereignty and sovereign rights in accordance with international law," the foreign ministry said in a statement.

China deployed the rig in early May, then Hanoi demanded Beijing withdraw it and sent patrol ships to try and disrupt the operations. China insisted it had done nothing wrong and accused Vietnam of illegally disrupting its activities.

The United States, which has criticized China for deploying the rig, welcomed China's announcement. State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said the incident had highlighted the need for claimants to clarify their claims in accordance with international law and reach a shared understanding on appropriate behavior in disputed areas.

The deployment of the rig was widely seen as part of a strategy by China of gradually staking out its claims in the South China Sea, all or part of which are also claimed Vietnam, the Philippines, Taiwan, Malaysia and Brunei.

China's Foreign Ministry said the rig was withdrawn because the typhoon season was beginning and the work had been completed.

It said it discovered oil and gas in its explorations but was assessing the data before deciding its next move. Whether Beijing deployed the rig for genuine exploration reasons or geopolitical ones was never clear. When it announced the deployment, Beijing said it would withdraw the rig on Aug. 15, also citing the typhoon season.

Ha Le, deputy director of Vietnam's fisheries resources surveillance department, said China began removing the rig and escorting vessels Tuesday night, and by 8 a.m. Wednesday it was 40 nautical miles northwest of its original location and continuing to move toward China's Hainan island.

Le said 30 vessels from Vietnam's coast guard and fisheries patrol forces that were sent to try to force the Chinese oil rig away will return to port to avoid Typhoon Rammasun, which is on a path into the South China Sea.

China's unwillingness to move the rig exposed Vietnam's lack of options when dealing with its giant neighbor. The workings of the government here are shrouded in secrecy, but it has long been assumed that the Communist Party is split between a faction that favors a tough line against Beijing—and consequentially stronger ties with the United States and U.S. allies—and other members who believe a quiet compromise can be reached with their ideological allies in China.

As a result of the rig placement, Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung has said the country was preparing to file a legal challenge to China's claims in an international tribunal, which could anger China. It remains to be seen whether Vietnam will go ahead with that now the rig has been withdrawn.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Storms in China kill at least 18

BEIJING (AP)—Heavy rains have killed at least 18 people in southern China and a state news agency said six more were missing Thursday after a landslide. Southern China was also bracing for the arrival of Typhoon Rammasun, with wind gales expected to reach up to 150 kph (90 mph). The government's Xinhua News Agency said lightning strikes killed six people in Jiangxi province. Three days of rains in neighboring Hunan province triggered landslides that killed five, and another seven deaths were reported in Guizhou province. Also in Guizhou, a landslide buried a village near the city of Bijie, leaving six people missing. Flooding also has hit the southwestern province of Yunnan and the southern region of Guangxi.

Thai junta gives ex-PM green light to go abroad

BANGKOK (AP)—Thailand's military government gave permission for former premier Yingluck Shinawatra to travel overseas for the first time since they overthrew her government in May, a spokesman said on Thursday. Thai media speculated that Yingluck, accompanied by her son, will go to France to celebrate the birthday of her brother, Thaksin Shinawatra, who was ousted in a 2006 coup and fled overseas in 2008 to avoid a corruption conviction. Thaksin turns 65 on July 26. The junta agreed to Yingluck's request to leave Thailand on a personal trip to Europe from July 20 to Aug. 10.

5 dead after helicopter crash in South Korea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—A firefighting helicopter crashed Thursday near an apartment complex and school in the southern South Korean city of Gwangju, killing five people, officials said. The helicopter was returning to headquarters in the eastern provincial firefighting agency after participating in search operations for 11 people still missing after a ferry sinking that killed more than 290 in April, fire officials in Gwangju said. The crash killed all five fire officers aboard the helicopter, while a female high school student on the ground received a minor injury, the officials said. An official at the firefighting agency in the eastern Gwangwon province said the five dead officers took the helicopter Monday when they left for search operations for the missing people from the ferry disaster.

Afghan official says gunmen attack Kabul Airport

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Gunmen used rockets to attack the Kabul International Airport in the Afghan capital Thursday, a senior military official said. The gunmen occupied two buildings, which were under construction, 700 meters (yards) north of the airport, and were using them as a base to fire rockets and gunfire toward the airport and ISAF jet fighters flying over Kabul, said Afzal Aman, a general in the Afghan army in Kabul. The predawn attack comes during a tense time in Afghanistan as a recount is underway from the second round of a disputed presidential election. Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid, in a call to The Associated Press, claimed responsibility for the attack.

World

Israel, Hamas agree to Gaza 'humanitarian' pause

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)—Israel and Hamas agreed to a five-hour U.N. brokered "humanitarian" pause to their 9-day-long battle, offering the most encouraging sign yet that the fierce fighting could come to an end.

Israel's bombardment of Gaza has killed more than 200 Palestinians, including four boys struck on a beach Wednesday by shells fired from a navy ship. Israel said it would hold its fire Thursday from 10 a.m. (0700 GMT, 3 a.m. EDT) under a plan to allow Palestinians to restock food, water and other necessities. But it vowed to retaliate "firmly and decisively" if Hamas or other militant groups launch attacks on Israel during that time.

Later, Hamas spokesman Sami Abu Zuhri said that following consultations with various factions the Gaza militants had decided to respect the pause as well and would refrain from firing rockets during those hours as well.

Robert Serry, the U.N. special coordinator for the Middle East peace process, had asked Israel to agree to a "unilateral humanitarian pause" so that the supplies can be delivered to Gaza, said U.N. deputy spokesman Farhan Haq. Serry will "urge the parties in Gaza to respect that pause," Haq said.

Israel previously had halted its fire for six hours Tuesday after Egypt put forward a cease-fire proposal that unraveled. Abu Zuhri said Wednesday his group had formally rejected the plan, bemoaning what he called little support from the Arab world.

But Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas met Wednesday in Cairo with a senior official from Hamas to try to salvage the Egyptian proposal.

In Washington, President Barack Obama said the U.S. supports Egypt's continued efforts to restore the 2012 cease-fire and will use all of its diplomatic resources and relationships to secure a deal to end the violence.

Israel's military said its forces bombed at least 150 targets in Gaza on Wednesday. It did not provide more specifics, but the Gaza Interior Ministry's website said 30 houses, including those of senior Hamas leaders Mahmoud Zahar, Jamila Shanti, Fathi Hamas and Ismail Ashkar, were targeted.

Zahar was a key figure in Hamas' violent takeover of Gaza in 2007, while the other three were members of the Palestinian parliament elected in 2006. Many Hamas leaders have gone into hiding since Israel began its bombardment July 8 in response to rocket attacks from Gaza.

Gaza health official Ashraf al-Kidra said the Palestinian death toll rose to 222, with 1,670 wounded. Only one Israeli has so far died in the conflict—a civilian distributing food to soldiers in southern Israel on Tuesday evening—largely because of the effectiveness of Israel's Iron Dome air defense system in downing incoming rockets.

The four boys, who were cousins aged 9 to 11, were killed on the beach beside a coastal road west of Gaza City, al-Kidra said. Seven others—adults and children—were wounded in the strike, which Palestinian human rights activist Khalil Abu Shamalla and Palestinian health officials said came from an Israeli naval vessel.

Israel agrees to humanitarian pause in strikes
The Israeli military has agreed to a five-hour pause in its strikes on the Gaza Strip, starting at 10 a.m. Thursday morning, Gaza time, for humanitarian reasons, as requested by the U.N.
Incidents, July 16
Reports as of 6 p.m. ET
• Israel warns that if Hamas launches rockets during that pause, retaliation will resume
• Major Israeli strikes batter 60 targets in north Gaza, from which most Hamas rockets are launched
• Amid the call-up of 8,000 more Israeli army reserves, a ground invasion is expected
• Since the start of the nine-day Israeli offensive, 213 Palestinians and one Israeli have died
Source: ESRI, Aerogrid, AEX, DigitalGlobe, Earthstar Geographics, GeoEye, Getmapping, i-cubed, NAVTEQ, NRCan, USGS, Reuters, AP, BBC, NBC News
Recent violence
Hamas rocket attacks
Israeli strikes
Border posts
Mediterranean Sea
Beit Hanoun
Gaza City
GAZA STRIP
ISRAEL
5 km
5 miles
Nuseirat
Khan Yunis
Rafah
Israeli-patrolled buffer zone
EGYPT
30 km
30 miles
LEBANON
Med. Sea
Tel Aviv
West Bank
Jerusalem
Hebron
Beersheba
ISRAEL
EGYPT
JOR.
Gunboat shelling kills four Palestinian boys
Shelling site
Main Gaza port
Al Deira Hotel
• The boys were playing soccer, scrounging for scrap metal when a shell from the gunboat landed nearby
• A second shell killed four of them as they fled
• Seven more people, including more boys, injured
• Refugees More than 17,000 shelter in 20 schools, fleeing northern Gaza
• UN buildings in Gaza About 50 facilities damaged, including clinics, schools
Graphic: Robert Dorrell © 2014 MCT

Hussam Abadallah, a waiter at the beachside al-Deera hotel, said the strike happened about 4 p.m.

A witness who identified himself only as Abu Ahmed said the boys were scavenging for scrap metal when a first shell hit a nearby shipping container

used in the past by Hamas security forces. He said the boys fled but a second rocket "hit all of them."

Abadallah said he saw "white smoke coming from a small room, like a shack, belonging to one of the fishermen not far from the fishing port."

He said he then saw the boys running.

"We started shouting at them, `Run, run here,' then a shell from the sea landed behind them," Abadallah said.

Some journalists dining at the hotel jumped from the terrace and helped five children bleeding from shrapnel get to safety in the hotel, he added.

"I will never forget these horrible images," he said.

Bolivia on verge of legalizing work from age 10

EL ALTO, Bolivia (AP)—Alicia weaves through El Alto's stalled traffic under a blazing sun, hawking colorful woven flowers to grumpy drivers and lovers.

With luck, the 12-year-old and her mother will together muster $18 by day's end, all the while keeping watch over her younger brother and sister, ages 8 and 6.

"It is difficult for my mother to sell alone because she has to look after my brothers," said Alicia, who normally goes to school in the afternoon but is using her vacation to help her mother by working the entire day. As her brothers sleep, her mother knits the flowers that Alicia sells.

While most of the world is trying to diminish child labor, Bolivia is on the verge of becoming the first nation to legalize it from age 10. Congress has approved the proposal and all that's now required is President Evo Morales' signature.

The bill's sponsors say lowering the minimum work age from 14 simply acknowledges a reality: Many poor families in Bolivia have no other choice than for their kids to work. The bill offers working children safeguards, they say.

"Child labor already exists in Bolivia and it's difficult to fight it. Rather than persecute it, we want to protect the rights and guarantee the labor security of children," said Sen. Adolfo Mendoza, one of the bill's sponsors.

AP

In this July 7, 2014, photo, Lucas, 13, polishes shoes on a street in La Paz, Bolivia.

Under the legislation, 10-year-olds will be able to work as long as they are under parental supervision and also attend school. It sets 12 as the minimum age for a child to work under contract. They also would have to attend school.

"To eliminate work for boys and girls would be like eliminating people's social conscience," Morales said in December in support of unionized young workers who marched on Congress to prevent it from ratifying a bottom-end work age of 14.

"The president gave us his support. He also worked as a boy, herding llamas," Rodrigo Medrano, head of the Union of Boy, Girl and Adolescent Workers, told The Associated Press. He said there is no alternative in a society where half the population is poor.

Jo Becker, the children's rights advocacy director at New York-based Human Rights Watch, disagrees.

"Bolivia's move is out of step with the rest of the world," she said. "Child labor may be seen as a short-term solution to economic hardship, but is actually a cause of poverty."

Becker said people who start work as children end up with less education and lower earnings as adults. They are then more likely to send their own children to work, perpetuating the cycle of poverty.

US, Europe escalate economic sanctions on Russia

WASHINGTON (AP)—Struggling to defuse the persistent crisis in Ukraine, both the U.S. and European Union imposed new economic sanctions on Russia Wednesday, with President Barack Obama declaring that Russian leaders must see that their actions supporting rebels "have consequences."

Though the American and European sanctions were coordinated, they nonetheless exposed fissures in what the West has tried to project as a united front in its monthslong effort to isolate Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Putin, sounding unperturbed, said the U.S. was only hurting itself.

The penalties announced by the White House were broad in scope, targeting two major Russian energy firms, a pair of powerful financial institutions, eight arms firms and four individuals. Leaders in Europe, which has a far deeper economic relationship with Russia than the U.S., were more restrained, ordering investment and development banks on the continent to suspend financing agreements with Moscow.

In a decision that could affect Russian oligarchs or members of the Kremlin inner circle, the EU leaders also asked their foreign ministers to consider targeting people or companies involved in the unrest in Ukraine.

Even the U.S. penalties stopped short of the most stringent actions the West has threatened, which would entail fully cutting off key sectors of Russia's economy. But officials said those steps were still on the table if Russia fails to abide by the West's demands to stop support for pro-Russian insurgents who have destabilized swaths of eastern Ukraine.

"What we are expecting is that the Russian leadership will see once again that its actions in Ukraine have consequences, including a weakening Russian economy and increasing diplomatic isolation," Obama said as he announced the U.S. penalties from the White House.

Publicly undismayed, Putin said the new sanctions run counter to U.S. national interests because they put American companies that want to operate in Russia at a competitive disadvantage.

At a news conference in Brazil, Putin said through a translator: "They are undermining the positions of their energy companies." He said, "They made one mistake, and now they insist on making another one."

Until now, the U.S. and Europe have limited their sanctions on Europe to travel bans and asset freezes aimed at individuals and entities, including some with close ties to Putin. But those measures have done little to change Putin's calculus, with the Pentagon announcing Wednesday that Russian troops were again building up along the border with Ukraine. In Ukraine itself, pro-Russian rebels in the east have lost much ground but now seem to be hunkering down for what could be extended urban warfare.

Ukraine and the West have accused Russia of fomenting the insurgency by sending troops and weapons across its border with the former Soviet republic, something Moscow denies. The insurgency was sparked by Russia's annexation of the Crimean Peninsula from Ukraine earlier this year.

While Obama has put a premium on responding to the provocations in coordination with Europe, the White House has grown increasingly frustrated with the continent's reluctance to impose sanctions on Russian economic sectors. EU leaders fear such penalties could have negative impacts on their own economies given their close financial relationships with Russia.

Off The Wall

Man starts fire using 'blowtorch' to kill spider

SEATTLE (AP)—A man who used a can of spray paint and a lighter as a makeshift blowtorch to kill a spider in his laundry room started a blaze that caused $60,000 worth of damage, Seattle fire officials said Wednesday.

The man and his mother got out of the house, and no injuries were reported in the fire that broke out in the West Seattle home Tuesday night, said Kyle Moore, a spokesman for the Seattle Fire Department.

Moore said the man used the spray paint and lighter as "a self-made blowtorch to kill a spider in the laundry room" of a rental house.

"I don't want to encourage people to do this, but that's what he did," Moore said Wednesday. "The spider tried to get into the wall. He sprayed flames on the wall, lit the wall on fire, and that extended up to the ceiling."

Fire crews were called to the home in the home just south of Seattle just before 8:30 p.m. Tuesday.

Firefighters initially fought the fire from outside after someone reported hearing ammunition go off in the house. Crews eventually went inside the house after confirming from tenants that there was no ammunition inside.

The man initially tried to put water on the fire, but he wasn't able to put it out and the blaze quickly spread into the attic.

On Wednesday, portions of the house were boarded up with plywood, and a blue tarp covered part of the roof. The owners of the house declined to comment.

"There are safer, more effective ways to kill a spider than using fire," Moore said. "Fire is not the method to use to kill a spider."

The Red Cross is providing temporary shelter for the home's two residents, whom authorities have not identified.

As for the spider, Moore said: "I'm pretty sure the spider did not survive this fire. The whole wall went."

AP

Debris from a fire fills the backyard next to the now boarded-up house where the night before a man used a can of spray paint and a lighter as a makeshift blowtorch to kill a spider, Wednesday, July 16, 2014, in Seattle.

DEATH AND FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Thomas Castro Dela Cruz

D.O.B. - March 05, 1938
Born to Eternal Life – July 10, 2014

He has reunited and is predeceased by:

Father: †Jose Cruz Dela Cruz
Mother: †Rita Villagomez Castro Dela Cruz
Daughter: †Norma May San Nicolas Dela Cruz
Grand Daughter: †Carmen Crisostomo Dela Cruz
Brothers/Sisters: †Jose Castro Dela Cruz
†Domingo Castro Dela Cruz
†Jesus Castro Dela Cruz
†Rosita Castro Dela Cruz
†Victorina Castro Dela Cruz

Parents In Law: †Joaquin Cruz San Nicolas
†Ana Arriola Lizama San Nicolas

Brothers/Sisters In Law: †Lourdes P. Dela Cruz / †Maria Lizama San Nicolas / †Ignacio Castro Camacho / †Antonio Cabrera Borja / †Jose San Nicolas Aquiningoc / †Luise Camacho Diaz / †Marlene Manibusan San Nicolas / †Lorenza San Nicolas Warnick / †David Leon Warnick

His memories will live forever in the hearts of his:

Wife: Carmen Lizama San Nicolas Dela Cruz

Children, Grand children and Great grand children:

Ana Rita DLC. and Villamor De Guzman (Baely Ann DLC. and Justin Leone/Keno John and Jarae Kamille DLC. De Guzman).
Antonio Ronald SN. and Dorothy C. Dela Cruz (Norma Mae DLC. and Lester A. Castro/Tamara DLC. and Charles T. Robertson and children/Annette DLC. and Joshua U. Benavente and son).
Bernadita DLC. and Leonardo L. Babauta (Anthony and Stephanie Hocog and daughter/Jazmin Q. Lizama and Angelo C. Marchadesch and daughter/Bernard Joseph DLC. Babauta).
Diego Luis SN. Dela Cruz (Ralph Tereyama and Kristina Alforeza and son/Annelle Susan Tereyama and Robert Y. Villagomez and sons/Jashlynn R./Jose R./Milton Noel R. and Thomas Jay R. Dela Cruz).
Martin SN. Dela Cruz
Evelyn DLC. and Dennis C. Padua (Erwin Ray DLC. Indalecio and Kelly T. Muna/Alejandra Lynn L. Evangelista/Devin Joaquin DLC. Legaspi and Clarisse Floreen DLC. Padua).
Jessica DLC. and Edward E. Kelley

***Close Family Friend:** Rey and Amie Guanlao and Children

Brothers/Sisters In Law:
Lourdes T. Manglona/Dolores SN. Camacho/Consolacion SN. Aquiningoc/Jesus L. and Jennifer L. San Nicolas/Joseph L. San Nicolas/Pedro I. Sablan.

He is additionally survived by numerous uncle, cousins, nieces, nephews, godchildren, godbrothers and godsisters.

Nightly mass is being offered at 6:00 PM at San Antonio Church.
Viewing and last respects will be held on July 19, 2014 at San Antonio Church starting at 7:30 AM. Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated at 11:00 AM and burial will follow immediately at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Your thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.
Thank you and Dangkulo Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase.

From the family

Scientists name Puerto Rico water mite after JLo

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)—Pop singer Jennifer Lopez may be thinking life is funny after a group of scientists named a water mite in her honor after discovering a new species near Puerto Rico.

The music of the Bronx, New York-born entertainer who has Puerto Rican roots was a hit with the group while they wrote about their findings, biologist Vladimir Pesic said in an email Wednesday.

"The reason behind the unusual choice of name for the new species is ... simple: J.Lo's songs and videos kept the team in a continuous good mood when writing the manuscript and watching World Cup Soccer 2014," said Pesic, who works at the University of Montenegro.

Pesic calls it a small token of gratitude for the singer of hits such as "Ain't It Funny," "I Luh Ya Papi" and his personal favorite, "All I Have."

He's the corresponding author of the study that was published Tuesday in the peer-reviewed online journal ZooKeys.

Pesic and other scientists collected the newly baptized Litarachna lopezae mite from a coral reef in Mona Passage, a treacherous body of water that separates Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic. The species was found at a depth of nearly 70 meters (230 feet), the greatest depth that pontarachnid mites have been found until now, according to their study.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Authorities: Nebraska man spotted naked on I-80

WAVERLY, Neb. (AP)—Authorities say a Nebraska man was walking around naked on Interstate 80 before damaging a passing vehicle. The Nebraska State Patrol says 30-year-old Samson Wilcinot of Lincoln was arrested Monday on Interstate 80 near Waverly. Troopers say they received a report Monday of a man walking on and off the interstate's eastbound lanes. Wilcinot is accused of physically hitting a vehicle that slowed down to help him. The driver of that vehicle pulled off the interstate into a weigh station area. The vehicle sustained more than $1,500 in damage. The *Omaha World-Herald* reports Wilcinot was cited on suspicion of felony criminal mischief and ticketed for public indecency and being a pedestrian on the interstate. Court records do not list an attorney.

Criminal history on Pennsylvania Capitol portraits

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP)—The portraits of three former Pennsylvania House speakers and one former top state senator hanging in the Capitol's marble corridors each have new information to tell visitors: their criminal histories. Plaques that add those details were hung Tuesday. Aides to the current House speaker and presiding senator say the new plaques are intended to keep the portrait tradition intact while addressing criticism that the portraits of convicted former lawmakers shouldn't be displayed near the likes of Ben Franklin. For instance, ex-House Speaker John Perzel's plaque now reads, "Mr. Perzel was defeated for re-election to the House in November 2010, prior to pleading guilty to a variety of corruption related charges, and was sentenced to prison on March 30, 2012." The other three men also went to prison on corruption-related charges.

@HiddenCash to pay for park trampled by money hunt

WHITTIER, Calif. (AP)—When the man with the Twitter handle (at)HiddenCash moved his scavenger hunt to Whittier, California, a thousand people trampled through Penn Park seeking free money. Now Jason Buzi, the Bay Area real estate investor behind the cash giveaways, says he will pay for the damage. KNBC-TV reported Tuesday Buzi has agreed to send the city of Whittier $5,000 to cover the cost of repairs. City Manager Jeff Collier says cash hunters trampled on plants, uprooted a newly planted tree, tore apart sprinkler heads and broke fences. Collier says Buzi was apologetic and Whittier appreciates his gesture. Through Twitter, Buzi has directed people to envelopes with $50 and $100 inside them in San Francisco and across Southern California in recent months. Buzi calls his giveaways a "social experiment for good."

Man wins $1 million while on Rhode Island vacation

CRANSTON, R.I. (AP)—A vacation off the coast of Rhode Island has turned a man into a millionaire. The Rhode Island Lottery said Tuesday that Flemington, New Jersey, resident Thomas Mistele bought a $20 ticket for the $1,000,000 Scratch game at a Block Island pharmacy and won the same amount back. So he decided to buy another ticket. Lottery officials say he started shaking with disbelief when he realized he had won $1 million. Mistele immediately told a friend with whom he's staying on Block Island, noted for its historic inns and outdoor activities. Then he called his mother and brother, who say he's the lucky one in the family. Mistele says he's not sure how he'll use the winnings. He says he plans to have some fun, buy a new car and save for retirement.

Science & Technology

What happens to your online accounts when you die?

WASHINGTON (AP)—You've probably decided who gets the house or that family heirloom up in the attic when you die. But what about your email account and all those photos stored online?

Grieving relatives might want access for sentimental reasons, or to settle financial issues. But do you want your mom reading your exchanges on an online dating profile or a spouse going through every email?

The Uniform Law Commission, whose members are appointed by state governments to help standardize state laws, on Wednesday endorsed a plan that would give loved ones access to—but not control of—the deceased's digital accounts, unless specified otherwise in a will.

To become law in a state, the legislation would have to be adopted by the legislature. If it did, a person's online life could become as much a part of estate planning as deciding what to do with physical possessions.

"This is something most people don't think of until they are faced with it. They have no idea what is about to be lost," said Karen Williams of Beaverton, Oregon, who sued Facebook for access to her 22-year-old son Loren's account after he died in a 2005 motorcycle accident.

The question of what to do with one's "digital assets" is as big as America's electronic footprint. A person's online musings, photos and videos—such as a popular cooking blog or a gaming avatar that has acquired a certain status online—can be worth considerable value to an estate. Imagine the trove of digital files for someone of historical or popular note—say former President Bill Clinton or musician Bob Dylan—and what those files might fetch on an auction block.

AP

This Feb. 16, 2013 file photo shows a printout of the Facebook page for Loren Williams, now deceased, at the Beaverton, Ore. home of his mother, Karen Williams.

"Our email accounts are our filing cabinets these days," said Suzanne Brown Walsh, a Cummings & Lockwood attorney who chaired the drafting committee on the proposed legislation. But "if you need access to an email account, in most states you wouldn't get it."

But privacy activists are skeptical of the proposal. Ginger McCall, associate director of the Electronic Privacy Information Center in Washington, said a judge's approval should be needed for access, to protect the privacy of both the owners of accounts and the people who communicate with them.

"The digital world is a different world" from offline, McCall said. "No one would keep 10 years of every communication they ever had with dozens or even hundreds of other people under their bed."

Many people assume they can decide what happens by sharing certain passwords with a trusted family member, or even making those passwords part of their will. But in addition to potentially exposing passwords when a will becomes public record, anti-hacking laws and most companies' "terms of service" agreements prohibit anyone from accessing an account that isn't theirs. That means loved ones technically are prohibited from logging onto a dead person's account.

Several tech providers have come up with their own solutions. Facebook, for example, will "memorialize" accounts by allowing already confirmed friends to continue to view photos and old posts. Google, which runs Gmail, YouTube and Picasa Web Albums, offers its own version: If people don't log on after a while, their accounts can be deleted or shared with a designated person. Yahoo users agree when signing up that their accounts expire when they do.

But the courts aren't convinced that a company supplying the technology should get to decide what happens to a person's digital assets. In 2005, a Michigan probate judge ordered Yahoo to hand over the emails of a Marine killed in Iraq after his parents argued that their son would have wanted to share them. Likewise, a court eventually granted Williams, the Oregon mother, access to her son's Facebook account, although she says the communications appeared to be redacted.

Enter the Uniform Law Commission. According to the proposal, the personal representative of the deceased, such as the executor of a will, would get access to—but not control of—a person's digital files so long as the deceased didn't prohibit it in the will. The law would trump access rules outlined by a company's terms of service agreement, although the representative would still have to abide by other rules including copyright laws.

That means, for example, a widow could read her deceased husband's emails but couldn't send emails from that account. And a person could access music or video downloads but not copy the files if doing so violated licensing agreements.

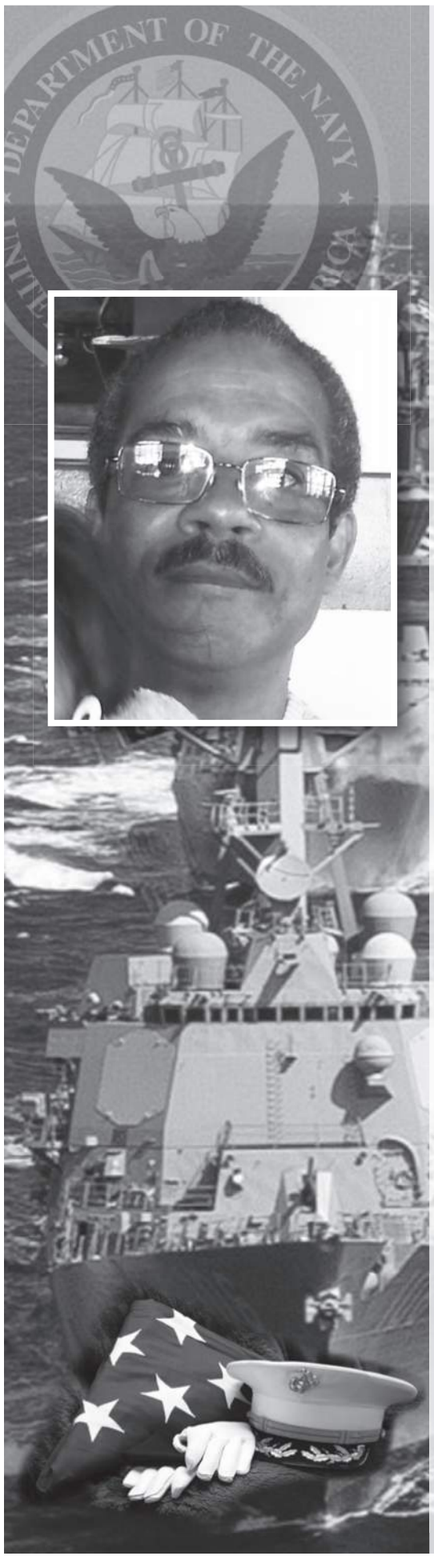
TECH BYTES

Visa launches new service to pay online

NEW YORK (AP)—Payment processor Visa is launching a new service called Visa Checkout that eliminates a few steps in online payment. The company and its retailing partners, including Neiman Marcus, Pizza Hut, Staples and others, hope a quicker payout will lead to fewer abandoned shopping carts online. As more customers shop on smaller screens like smartphones and tablets, the hassle of entering in credit card numbers and billing addresses is becoming a sticking point and payment processors have been working to find ways to simplify the process. Beginning Wednesday, users can sign up with Visa credit and debit cards, as well as other branded cards, and enter their card information just once. Then they will be able pay for things via Visa by only entering their username and password at participating sites. The service is currently being offered in the U.S., Canada and Australia,

Apple, IBM team up in mobile devices, applications

CUPERTINO, Calif. (AP)—Apple is teaming up with former nemesis IBM in an attempt to sell more iPhones and iPads to corporate customers and government agencies. The partnership announced Tuesday calls for the two technology companies to work together on about 100 different mobile applications designed for a wide range of industries. The applications, expected to be released this fall, will feature some of data-crunching tools that IBM Corp. sells to companies trying to get a better grasp on their main markets while scouring for new money-making opportunities. IBM is also pledging to provide better security to reassure companies concerned about hackers stealing vital information off the mobile devices of employees doing less of their work on desktop and laptop computers.



ANNOUNCEMENT OF BURIAL AT SEA

In loving Memory of

David Vincent Price

Also known as "Chief Dave"

On June 15th, 2014, Chief David Vincent Price was called into the arms of the Lord at the youthful age of 53 in the Common Wealth Health Center. He was born to David and Evelyn Price in Washington, North Carolina November 28th 1960.

He was the US Navy Gunner's Mate Chief (E7). He served his country for twenty five plus years and lived his life out on the seas. He was awarded many metals and honors, but when any of us kids asked what he did, he always replied, "If I told you I'd have to kill you" so to this day we have never asked and stand amazed.

He was mischievous as a child and I can see him causing all kinds of trouble with my father (his brother) and their 3 siblings. He was very loving to us as an uncle and as my eldest sister writes, "Had a look that could scare any of us straight, an infectious smile, and a laugh that none of us will ever forget"

He is survived by his family on the mainland, who love him dearly. His beloved mother; Evelyn Price, his brothers and sisters; Carmen, Steven, Lynda, and Chris Price, his nieces and nephews; Bryan (son of Carmen) Kristen, Deanna, Stephen, Ashley, and Kelsie Price (children to Steven) Don Price, Anthony P. Shelton, Brittney Price-Shelton and Steffaney Price (children to Lynda)

He is also remembered by those who knew him best. His crew of the "tres amigos" Richard Smith aka "Rick" and Carlton along with those who cared for him and knew him here on the island; Gee Carroll, Nora Daluz, and Tom Clifford.

We, the family of David Vincent Price, extend our sincere and utmost gratitude to the nurses and staff of Marianas Health Care Sevices, CHC, to Ruth Colman, Dr. Ada and staff at the U.S Department of Veterans Health Administration, Tom Clifford, Patricia Pangelinan, Bob McCausland, Dave Dougherty, Vicente Camacho, Bearni B. De La Cruz, Ed Tudor, Paul Lee, the Vetreans Affairs, VFW, VSW, CNMI, VESTCOR apartments, Gee Carroll, Nora DaLuz, and all who helped make his return home a peaceful passage.

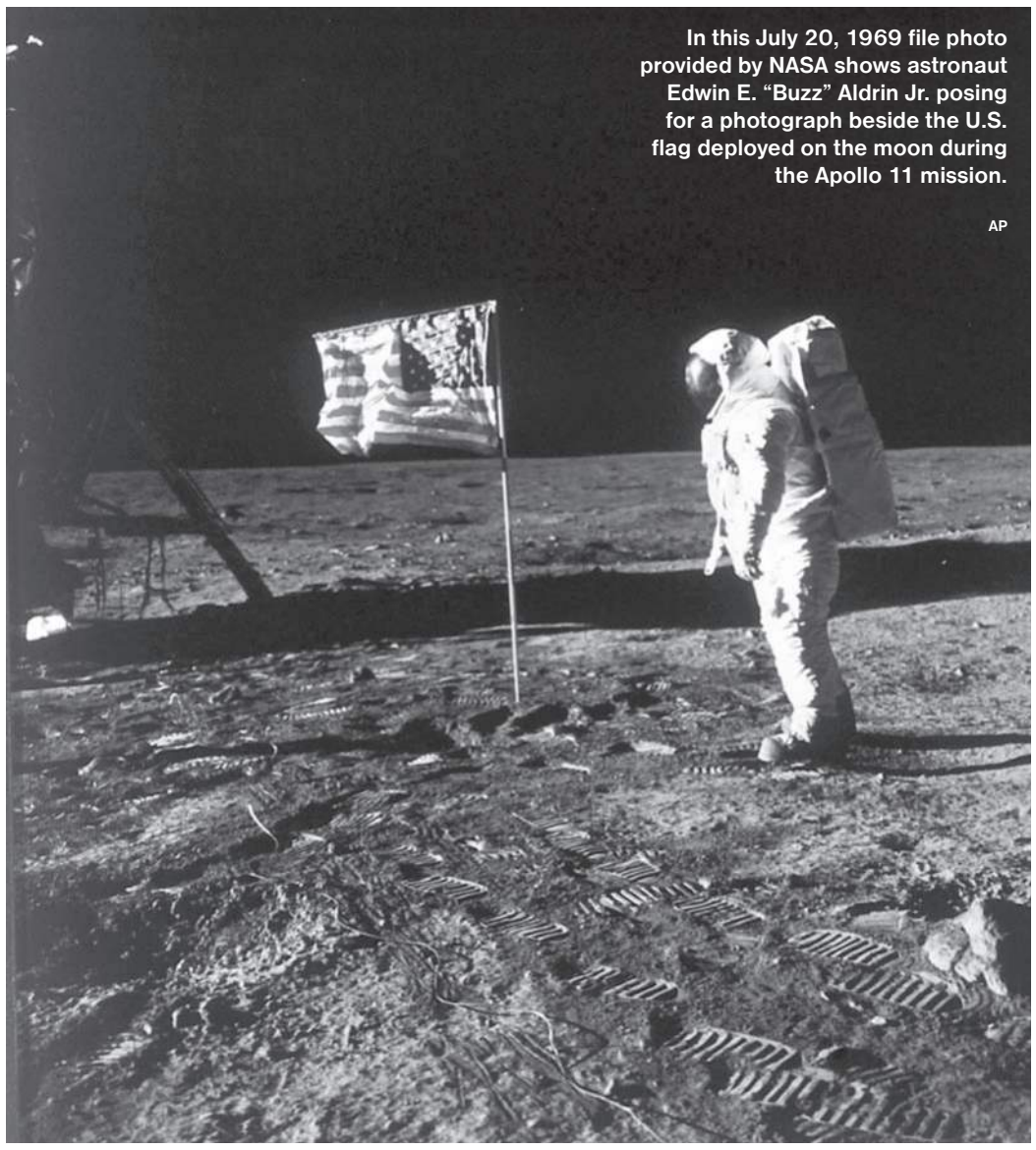
Chief Dave traveled the seas and made his mark where he docked. He was a reserved and intimate man, but good to all and his smile will remain with many.

Burial at sea following a brief service at Smiling Cove Marina on Monday, July 21, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. Colleagues, family and friends are welcome to come to Smiling Cove to pay their last respects as they depart on the Landing Craft Mechanized, Mark 8 ("LCM-8") Pacific Marine 1.

Life & Style

Buzz Aldrin: Where were you when I walked on moon?

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—On July 20, 1969, Buzz Aldrin was "out of town" when the world united and rejoiced in a way never seen before or since.



In this July 20, 1969 file photo provided by NASA shows astronaut Edwin E. "Buzz" Aldrin Jr. posing for a photograph beside the U.S. flag deployed on the moon during the Apollo 11 mission.

AP

He and Neil Armstrong were on the moon.

They missed the whole celebration 45 years ago this Sunday. So did Michael Collins, orbiting solo around the moon in the mother ship.

Now, on this Apollo 11 milestone—just five years shy of the golden anniversary—Aldrin is asking everyone to remember where they were when he and Armstrong became the first humans to step onto another heavenly body, and to share their memories online.

Too young? You can also share how the moonwalkers inspired you.

Celebrities, public figures, and other astronauts and scientists are happily obliging with videos.

"What a day that was," said actor Tom Hanks, sipping from an Apollo 11 commemorative cup. He starred in the 1995 film "Apollo 13," another gripping moon story.

"Going to space is a big deal. Walking on the moon is, literally, walking on the moon," said singer-songwriter Pharrell Williams, born four years afterward.

And from London Mayor Boris Johnson, who watched the event unfold on an a little black-and-white TV at an English farmhouse: "I knew immediately it was the most exciting thing that I'd ever seen. I was only 5 at the time. And it still is just about the most exciting thing I've ever seen."

In all, 12 men explored the moon in six landings through 1972. But that first moonwalk, by Armstrong and Aldrin, is what clinched America's place as space leader supreme following a string of crushing losses to the Soviet Union, which claimed title to first satellite, first spaceman, first spacewoman and first spacewalker.

"U.S. 1, Sputnik nothing," actor Louis Gossett Jr. said with a laugh in his video.

It's the first big anniversary of man's first moon landing without Armstrong, whose "one small step ... one giant leap" immortalized the moment.

Armstrong, long known for his reticence, died in 2012 at age 82.

As Apollo 11's commander, Armstrong was first out the lunar module, Eagle, onto the dusty surface of Tranquility Base. Aldrin followed.

Collins, now 83, the command module pilot who stayed behind in lunar orbit as the gatekeeper, also spent decades sidestepping the spotlight. He's making an exception for the 45th anniversary—he plans to take part in a NASA ceremony at Kennedy Space Center on Monday to add Armstrong's name to the historic Operations and Checkout Building.

That leaves Aldrin, 84, as the perennial spokesman for Apollo 11. He will also be at Monday's ceremony.

"I consider myself a global statesman for space," Aldrin says in a YouTube video. "So I spend most of my time traveling the country and the world to remind people what NASA and our space program have accomplished, and what is still in our future at Mars. I feel we need to remind the world about the Apollo missions and that we can still do impossible things.

"The whole world celebrated our moon landing. But we missed the whole thing because we were out of town. So now I invite you to share with me—and the world—your story or your family's story of where you were on July 20th, 1969. Or feel free to tell me how the Apollo missions inspired you."

Aldrin used to keep a little black book to list people's whereabouts on July 20, 1969. Everyone wanted to share that with him.

Now he's using social media and asking people to post a video to YouTube using the hashtag (hash)Apollo45.

And the stories are pouring in.

Peter Alyward, a self-professed space geek from Melbourne, Australia, recalls his parents waking him to see the Saturn V launch from what then was called Cape Kennedy, Florida, on July 16, 1969—45 years ago Wednesday—around the middle of the night Down Under.

It's the first major Apollo 11 anniversary- one divisible by five—that actually falls on the days of the week that the events occurred. Liftoff was, indeed, on a Wednesday, Eastern time; the moon landing was on a Sunday, Eastern time.

"More than any other time in history, with the technology that became available then, all the people of the world truly did experience it and were able to share it. Not just as an American feat, but as a really global event," said Aylward, 56, a business developer for a software company.

Actor Tim Allen watched the moon landing from his boyhood Michigan home.

"To this day, it's the most exciting thing in my life, just to think what you saw and what you experienced ... " Allen said.

Some of videos urge a return to the moon. President Barack Obama scrapped that idea in 2010 in favor of sending astronauts to an asteroid and then Mars.

"From one frontier to another, let's go back," Alaska's lieutenant governor, Mead Treadwell, said in his video.

"Well done, Buzz Aldrin," added Johnson, London's mayor. "And about time we got back up there, huh?"

REGAL CINEMAS
Bargain Shows ( ) ★Pass/Discount Restrictions Apply
SAIPAN MEGAPLEX 7
Near Joeten Superstore in San Jose MP
LUCY [CC,DV] (R) Thu.800 PM 945 PM
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Thu.(115 PM) 715 PM
TAMMY [CC,DV] (R)
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DELIVER US FROM EVIL [CC,DV] (R)
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EARTH TO ECHO [CC] (PG)
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TRANSFORMERS: AGE OF EXTINCTION
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TRANSFORMERS: AGE OF EXTINCTION
3D [CC,DV] (PG-13)
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HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON 2
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Sun. - Wed.(125 PM 400 PM) 645 PM
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Times For 07/18 - 07/24 www.REGmovies.com

First lady salutes Grammy Museum, music teachers

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Michelle Obama says every arts organization in the country should embrace the mission of the Grammy Museum in Los Angeles, which focuses on education.

Six million American children attend schools with no art or music classes, she said Wednesday at the museum's inaugural Jane Ortner Education Award Luncheon.

"Arts are a way to channel ... pain and frustration into something meaningful and productive and beautiful, and every human being needs that, particularly our kids," she said. "And when they don't have that outlet, that's such a tremendous loss, not just for our kids but for our nation."

The Grammy Museum has worked with the first lady since 2009 to produce concerts and music education programs for young people, bringing 1,000 students to Washington, D.C. to see live performances.

"Those are some of my favorite events at the White House," Obama said.

The Grammy Museum has focused on education since it opened in 2008, said executive director Bob Santelli. It aims to inspire learning, creativity and critical thinking through music. The museum hosts more than 35,000 students a year and provides free curricula for various subjects that incorporate music in innovative ways.

Southern California high school teacher Sunshine Cavalluzzi developed one such curriculum: weaving music into economics lessons. She was accompanied by several of her students at the private luncheon at L.A. Live's Club Nokia, where she accepted the Jane Ortner Education Award.

Singer-songwriter Janelle Monae, who received the Jane Ortner Artist Award, said music saved her when she was growing up in a rough neighborhood.

"Music helped me really deal with my emotions, when I could not articulate how frustrated I was," she said. "It gave me the opportunity to get it all out."

Her latest album, 2013's "The Electric Lady," rails against sexism, presenting women as subjects rather than objects.

NC gov defends his self-published poet laureate

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)—North Carolina's governor, facing criticism that he bypassed a traditional selection process in choosing a poet laureate with only two self-published books to her name, said Wednesday he seeks to give opportunities to those who aren't part of "elite groups."

But Gov. Pat McCrory also said he would review the procedure he used after picking Valerie Macon to serve a two-year term in the high-profile position. A disability examiner for the state, Macon has two self-published books of poetry and a dedication to helping the homeless.

Several previous poets laureate have criticized McCrory for bypassing the traditional though not obligatory process of involving the North Carolina Arts Council in the selection.

"We were not aware of the traditional process that was in place," McCrory said Wednesday. "It wasn't written down anywhere on the walls."

When told the guidelines once were on the Arts Council's website, McCrory replied: "We must have missed that website."

The sections on the selection process have disappeared from the council's website.

However, the governor's news release about Macon's appointment included some of the same guidelines as those of the council: "Guidelines call for the poet to be a North Carolinian with deep connections to the cultural life of this state, literary excellence and influence on other writers and appreciation of literature in its diversity throughout the state ..."

The Arts Council also said the poet laureate should have: an appreciation of literature in its diversity throughout the state; a statewide, national or international reputation; and an ability and willingness to engage in the public duties of the office.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Macon said she does not have a national or international reputation. Asked if she has a statewide reputation, she replied: "I don't know. There have been people who have told me they read my book, and they come from another state. It's hard to judge."

McCrory said Wednesday that one of his objectives is to open appointments to people who aren't part of "the standard or even elite groups ... It's good to welcome new voices and new ideas."

Sandusky son talks of father's bedtime 'ritual'

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP)—A son of convicted child molester Jerry Sandusky says he enjoyed spending time with the family at their central Pennsylvania home—except when it came time to go to bed.

The Oprah Winfrey Network on Wednesday released a clip of Winfrey's interview with Matt Sandusky, who alleges he was sexually abused by his father.

Matt Sandusky tells Winfrey that his father had a bedtime "ritual." The full interview airs Thursday at 9 p.m. Eastern.

The network says Sandusky also describes grooming, methodical control and manipulation by his father.

Jerry Sandusky is a former Penn State assistant football coach now imprisoned for molesting 10 other boys.

Matt Sandusky is one of six children adopted by Jerry Sandusky and his wife. He also discussed the alleged abuse in the documentary "Happy Valley."

AP

This June 27, 2014 image released by OWN shows Matt Sandusky, the adopted son of former Penn State University assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky, during an interview with Oprah Winfrey, airing on OWN on Thursday, July 17.

Ex-Miss Delaware sues to regain pageant title

DOVER, Del. (AP)—A woman stripped of her Miss Delaware title last month for being too old is suing state pageant officials and the Miss America organization.

In a lawsuit filed Tuesday, Amanda Longacre is seeking to be reinstated as Miss Delaware and to be allowed to compete in the Miss America pageant. She also is seeking $500,000 in damages for herself and $2.5 million for other contestants who she claims were recruited to compete in pageants before being told they were too old.

Officials say Miss America pageant rules require contestants to be between 17 and 24. Longacre turns 25 on Oct. 22, after this year's national pageant.

The lawsuit alleges that one or more other contestants in the 2014 Miss Delaware pageant also were too old to compete under those rules.

"It is a lawsuit without merit and we will defend it vigorously," said Sharon Pearce, president of the Miss America organization.

State pageant representatives did not immediately respond to messages seeking comment Wednesday.

Jason Mraz to tour 5 New York boroughs in Sept.

NEW YORK (AP)—Jason Mraz is in a New York state of mind.

The Grammy-winning pop singer announced Wednesday that he will tour the five boroughs of New York in September.

Mraz

Mraz said at a press conference at the Empire State Building that he will kick off the tour Sept. 17 at the Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts at Brooklyn College.

The 37-year-old singer-songwriter, who is based in San Diego, attended college in New York in the 1990s.

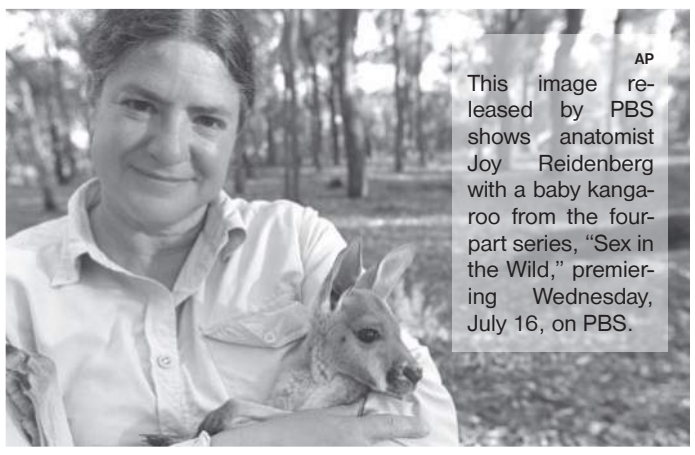
"I left New York City and I said, `One of these days I'm going to come back with some songs and with a great show and with a great act.' And I've done that many times, but this feels like a real homecoming for me," Mraz said in an interview.

"The Five Boroughs Tour" will wrap with two nights at Radio City Music Hall in New York City on Sept. 22-23. His tour will also play in the Bronx on Sept. 18, in Queens on Sept. 19 and on Staten Island on Sept. 20.

Tickets for all shows will go on sale July 21.

Mraz released his new album "YES!" on Tuesday. His hits include "I'm Yours" and "I Won't Give Up," and he performed at Madison Square Garden last year.

Sex and affairs on PBS' summertime agenda



AP

This image released by PBS shows anatomist Joy Reidenberg with a baby kangaroo from the four-part series, "Sex in the Wild," premiering Wednesday, July 16, on PBS.

NEW YORK (AP)—Normally staid PBS seems to be letting its hair down with two programs new to the primetime lineup on Wednesday: "My Wild Affair" and "Sex in the Wild."

Hold off on the cold shower, though.

"My Wild Affair" is the colorful name for a summer series about humans who develop friendships with wild animals, like a rhinoceros rescued from a flood that lives at a veterinarian's suburban home and an orangutan raised as a human child and taught sign language.

Meanwhile, "Sex in the Wild" follows vets and scientists who study the mating and child-rearing habits of animals. The show features four different animals in four episodes, including a study of kangaroos in the Australian Outback.

"It's very PBS," noted Beth Hoppe, the public broadcasting service's chief programming executive.

"My Wild Affair" (8 p.m. EDT) and "Sex in the Wild" (10 p.m.) both focus on elephants for their debut episodes.

Under Hoppe's direction the past couple of years, the television home of "Downton Abbey" and Ken Burns has tried to be a little more responsive to events and promotion-minded. Hence, the attention-getting titles for programs that would feel right at home on Animal Planet.

"If you can get them in the tent, it's a good title," Hoppe said. "If you see the shows, they are educational and entertaining."

Both series run for four weeks, ending Aug. 6.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Ron Howard to direct Beatles documentary

NEW YORK (AP)—Ron Howard will direct a documentary on the Beatles that focuses on the band's touring years during the early 1960s. Howard announced the project Wednesday. The film is being made with the cooperation of Paul McCartney, Ringo Starr, Yoko Ono and Olivia Harrison. The Beatles company, Apple Corps, is co-producing the film. The as-yet-untitled film is the second documentary directed by Howard, who said he's long been a Beatles fan. Howard previously made the 2013 Jay-Z documentary "Made in America." The film will run up to the Beatles' final concert in San Francisco's Candlestick Park in 1966. Much footage for the documentary has already been gathered. The movie is tentatively slated for release late next year.

'All the Way' with HBO for Bryan Cranston as LBJ

LOS ANGELES (AP)—HBO says it's "All the Way" with Bryan Cranston reprising his role as President Lyndon Johnson in a TV adaptation of his recent Broadway debut. HBO Films has acquired rights to the Tony Award-winning play that opened earlier this year to critical and popular success while also winning Cranston the Tony as best actor. The company said Wednesday that Robert Schenkkan will adapt his play for HBO. "All the Way" focuses on Johnson early in his presidency after the death of President John F. Kennedy in 1963. HBO hasn't specified an air date. Cranston made his Broadway debut in the play fresh from the much-acclaimed finale of his AMC drama series, "Breaking Bad." He's nominated for a best-actor Emmy for that show.

Son decides life on the open road isn't for him after all

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR ABBY: For years, my wife and I were RV enthusiasts. We have a son who was envious about our lifestyle and expressed a desire to own an RV and travel the highways. When we decided to give up the practice, we gave our travel trailer to him as a gift.

The trailer has been sitting on his property for more than a year now and has never been moved. He has kept the license and insurance fees current. He recently told us he has changed his mind and is no longer interested in traveling with it. He has offered it back to us.

We have decided to sell it and wonder what, if any, moral obligation we have to share the proceeds of the sale with our son. Your thoughts?

HOMEBOUND OUT WEST

DEAR HOMEBOUND: You gave your son the RV as a gift; he is returning it to you instead of selling it himself. While I think it would be generous of you to split the proceeds with your son, I don't think there is any moral imperative that you must.

DEAR ABBY: My wife of 17 years just told me out of the blue that she doesn't love me anymore and hasn't for some time. To say that this came as a shock is an understatement. We've had our disagreements, but we always worked through them, or so I thought.

Because she has felt this way for some time now, she has hardly shed a tear. For me, my heart is broken. I feel lost, confused, angry, depressed and I can't stop crying.

I wish I could die, but we have children and I know I can't leave them. We made a pact years ago that if we ever fell out of love we'd stay together for the kids until they were grown. Now I don't know if it was a lie or if she'll keep her promise.

I'm writing this at midnight, crying in the dark and alone. I still love her and my heart breaks every time I think about it. Please tell me what to do.

DEVASTATED IN TEMPE, ARIZ.

DEAR DEVASTATED: I am sorry for the pain you are feeling. What you must do now is pull yourself together and find out from your wife when it was that the two of you stopped communicating honestly with each other—because it seems your paths diverged some time ago. She owes you honest answers, and you need to hear them.

After that, you may have to decide whether you still WANT her to honor that long-ago promise to stay together until your children are adults. You might find it helpful to stage some of these conversations in the office of a licensed marriage and family counselor. Having a mediator present could make it easier for both of you. While I can't promise counseling will save your marriage, it may provide you with the emotional support you will need in the weeks and months ahead.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

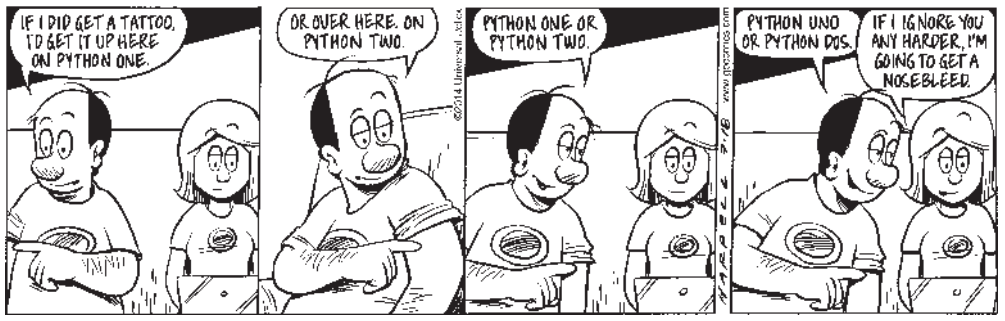
THERE'S A DIPLODOCUS! WE'RE IN THE JURASSIC! WE MADE IT!
UGH. I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU WANTED TO COME BACK HERE.
LAST TIME WE DIDN'T BRING A CAMERA.
ALL WE NEED IS A FEW GOOD DINOSAUR PHOTOS AND WE'LL BE RICH WHEN WE GET HOME.
IF WE GET IN NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC, MAYBE I'LL GET TO MEET SOME OF THOSE TIGRESS BABES THEY SHOWED IN THE APRIL ISSUE! YOW WOW!
THOSE WERE FEMALES? REALLY, I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU CAN EVEN TELL THE DIFFERENCE.
7-18

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

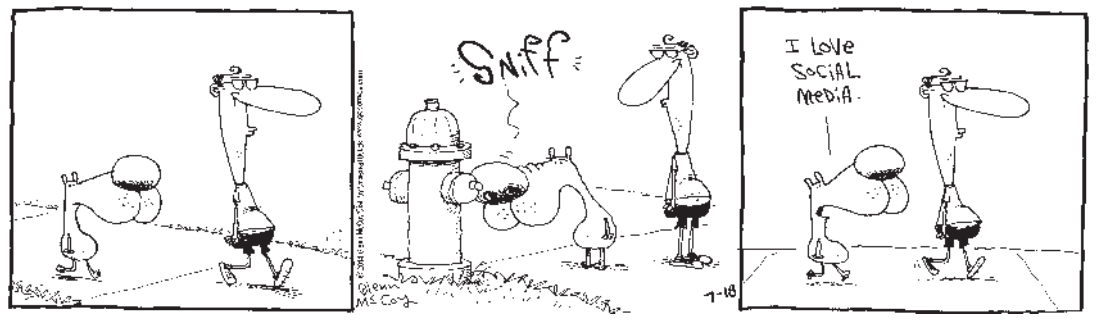
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


IF I DID GET A TATTOO, I'D GET IT UP HERE ON PYTHON ONE.
OR OVER HERE. ON PYTHON TWO.
PYTHON ONE OR PYTHON TWO.
PYTHON UNO OR PYTHON DOS.
IF I IGNORE YOU ANY HARDER, I'M GOING TO GET A NOSEBLEED.
7-18

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

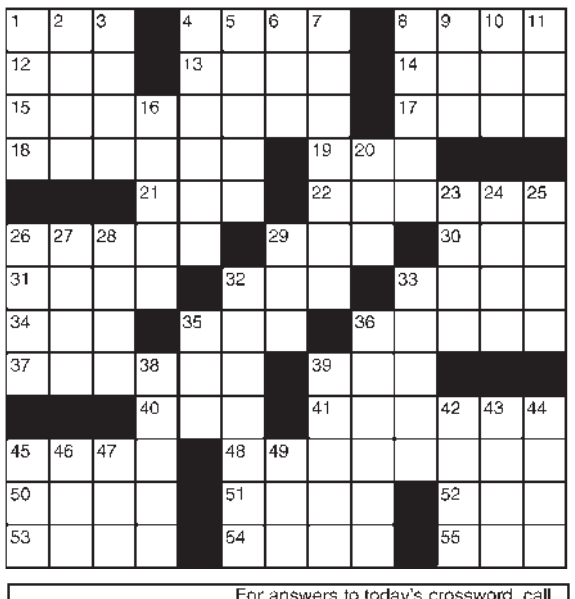
1 Scratch
4 Applaud
8 Banshee's sound
12 "— Little Teapot"
13 Sitarist's rendition
14 Wheelbase terminus
15 San Francisco carrier
17 Touched
18 Relaxed
19 Time of your life?
21 "Monty Python" opener
22 Passengers' pub
26 Cereal choices
29 Crafty
30 Position
31 Leisurely pace
32 Pirouette pivot
33 Put together
34 Honest politician
35 Bashful
36 Like forks
37 It's usually filled with freight
39 Pistol
40 Ostrich's cousin
41 Soap ingredient
45 Frenzied
48 Cops' transport
50 Furniture brand
51 Swerve
52 Former spacecraft
53 Paraphernalia
54 Faction
55 Golfer Ernie

DOWN

1 Isinglass
2 He loves, to Livy
3 Playwright David
4 Peaks
5 Shoestrings
6 Khan title
7 Biblical tale
8 Item for mass consumption?
9 Tin Man's prop
10 Poorly
11 Allow
16 Frankie or Cleo
20 Festive
23 Family
24 Staffer
25 Oboe insert
26 Spill the beans
27 Sci-fi prefix
28 Pinnacle
29 Sauce source
32 Fencing moves
33 Went for the gold?
35 Muppet eagle
36 The Green Wave
38 Scented wood
39 Pumpkin or cucumber
42 Wile E.'s provider
43 Peacock's pride
44 Blunders
45 Peruke
46 Eisenhower
47 Meadow
49 Who (Fr.)

Solution time: 26 mins.

Yesterday's answer 7-16



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Chace Crawford, 29; Kristen Bell, 34; Vin Diesel, 47; Wendy Williams, 50.

Happy Birthday: Don't let discord lead you down the wrong path this year. Pick and choose your course of action based on what's best for you and what will bring you the greatest security. Accept the changes going on around you and move on. Don't waste time fighting a losing battle when you can accomplish so much more doing your own thing. Your numbers are 6, 17, 23, 26, 30, 41, 43.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Don't start a fight or overreact to what's going on around you. Back up and rethink your strategy. You are better off doing something that will tire you out. Making an impulsive move or decision will lead to regret. Focus on self-improvement. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Keep personal information a secret. Be careful when dealing with financial, legal or government institutions. Keep busy and steer clear of anyone who tends to make you angry. Take an interesting course or day trip. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Offer suggestions and hands-on help, and you will motivate others to get involved and pitch in as well. Greater opportunities will come your way thanks to your charm and take-charge attitude. Good fortune will come from an unusual source. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Emotional struggles might be caused by unexpected changes. Do your best to remain calm and stay out of the line of fire. Problems at work and with partnerships must be handled with diplomacy to avoid mishaps and regrets. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Your gung-ho approach to work will make an impression on someone who can influence your life personally or professionally. Show off your skills and make unique changes that will bring about improvements. Show compassion by sharing your emotions. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Budget for an unexpected expense. Impulse purchases must be avoided. Look for new ways to bring in more cash. A suggestion made by one of your peers should be considered. An unusual partnership will take you by surprise and enhance your future. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Emotional ups and downs will dominate your day. Patience will be required to avoid a disagreement with a partner or someone at work. Back away from anyone trying to bully you. Creativity will be your best outlet. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Stay within budget and think realistically when it comes to projects at work or at home. Use your ingenuity and do the work yourself. You can stabilize your financial situation if you cut corners. Love is on the rise. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Make plans to do something fun, but stay within your budget. Getting involved in a community project will allow you to show off your expertise and drum up attention. A change at home will turn out better than anticipated. ✪✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Problems will arise while traveling or if you get into a discussion with someone you'd prefer not to deal with. Stick close to home and avoid situations that could lead to a physical mishap. Take a break and relax; it will do you good. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Initiate the changes you feel will get you back on track and help you move on to bigger and better opportunities. Concentrate on saving, not spending, and you will ease your stress and feel better about your future. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): A last-minute change will disrupt your plans. Be prepared to carry on regardless of what others do. Love is highlighted, and romance will help improve your personal life. Fix up your living space to suit your current needs. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are straightforward and tenacious. You are intuitive and aggressive.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			1			3		
	5			2			4	
9			5		4			
		1				2		6
	4			5			3	
7		8				1		
			6		7			8
	1			3			9	
		9			5			

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 7/18

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

5	4	7	2	9	3	8	6	1
2	1	3	7	6	8	4	9	5
8	9	6	5	1	4	2	7	3
6	3	2	8	4	9	5	1	7
1	7	8	6	5	2	3	4	9
9	5	4	3	7	1	6	8	2
7	2	9	4	3	6	1	5	8
4	8	1	9	2	5	7	3	6
3	6	5	1	8	7	9	2	4

Difficulty Level ★★★ 7/17

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

LAUNDRY DETERGENTS Solution: 6 letters

S	P	S	O	F	T	E	N	E	R	S	C	E	N	T
E	O	O	N	E	U	T	R	A	L	A	P	G	H	N
R	M	L	D	I	L	U	T	E	L	L	N	R	C	E
U	A	U	V	S	A	W	I	K	R	I	D	L	A	G
T	G	C	L	E	A	T	A	Q	M	E	E	S	E	Y
X	N	R	I	S	N	L	S	A	T	A	T	O	L	X
I	E	E	H	D	I	T	O	A	N	D	S	A	B	O
M	S	V	U	N	S	F	R	E	S	D	R	P	W	C
U	I	O	E	T	L	T	Y	N	O	E	E	O	H	I
I	U	M	N	O	N	R	S	Z	L	D	D	W	I	N
C	M	E	O	E	D	G	T	Y	U	R	L	D	T	O
L	G	R	C	N	R	R	I	M	T	O	I	E	E	I
A	O	N	U	I	I	E	R	E	I	D	U	R	I	T
C	O	A	M	D	R	E	T	S	O	O	B	S	D	A
C	L	E	D	I	O	N	S	A	N	I	O	N	I	C

© 2014 Universal Jolick www.wonderwordcom Join us on Facebook 7/18

Acids, Added, Agents, Alkaline, Anionic, Bleach, Booster, Builders, Calcium, Cationic, Clean, Concentrated, Dilute, Dirt, Emulsify, Enzymes, Floor, Foaming, Green, Grime, Ions, Laundry, Load, Magnesium, Mixtures, Neutral, Odor, Oxygen, Pods, Powders, Remover, Scent, Soap, Softeners, Solution, Solvent, Spray, Stains, Stir, Wash, Water, White

Yesterday's Answer: Lullaby

The **WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #2** s here! Purchase online at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480. (Contains 100 puzzles.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

1 Farmer/Aquaculture - 2 years experience preferred. Please call 989-1170 or submit resume to Matsumoto Trust at P.O. Box 5057 CHRB Saipan, MP 96950.

Solomon Salon is looking for 2-All Around Beauticians. 2 yrs. exp. Email resume to susansantoscastro@gmail.com

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(1) Operations Manager $10.00/hr. Bachelor's degree and at least 5 yrs experience in construction industry required.

(2) Construction/Maintenance workers. Extensive knowledge in masonry, plumbing, electrical and carpentry work. Can read blue print and can work w/o supervision. Able to lift heavy blocks and flexible in work schedule. Send resume to PO Box 503317 Saipan or email to noel96950@yahoo.com. GMACorp.

J.C. Tenorio Enterprises Inc.
is currently seeking
(6) BAKERS
(1) COOK
Resumes must be emailed to hrd3@joeten.com
J.C. Tenorio Enterprises Inc. is a equal opportunity employer.
Closing date: July 18, 2014

Warehouse for RENT
REM GUALO RAI
Warehouse #3 - Size: 4,000sq/ft
$0.65 per sq/ft. Negotiable
REM LOWERBASE
Warehouse #2 - Size: 6,000sq/ft
$0.45 per sq/ft. Negotiable
FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEAS CALL
235-6527/28 or 285-1317

Misamis Construction
Now Hiring
- Carpenters
- Masons
- Painters
- Electricians
- Steel worker – Welders
- Plumbers
- Heavy Equipment Operator
- Building Maintenance Repairers
- Domestic Workers

Local Applicants are encouraged to apply – Please call 235-5238 or visit our office in Chalan Kanoa.
Email:
misamisconstruction@yahoo.com

TINIAN FUEL SERVICES, INC
PO Box 520800, Tinian, MP 96952
Tel. (670) 433-4427 • Fax. (670) 433-4329

JOB VACANCY ANNOUCEMENT

Open Date: July 16, 2014
Close Date: June 21, 2014

Position: (2) Farm Worker
Salary: $5.55 - $6.05 per hour
Qualification: High School Diploma
Link: http://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/45-2092.02

Fax resume to (670) 433-4329 on or before July 25, 2014

MAKE-A-WISH
Visit us at 865 S. Marine Dr.,
Orlean Pacific Plaza Ste. 104 Tamuning, Guam 96913
Tel: (671) 649-WISH • Fax: (671) 646-6293
Email: mawfguam@ite.net • www.wish.org
Office Hours: 8:30am-5:30pm, M-F daily
Saipan Tribune

LOOKING FOR A FRIEND

American gentleman wants to meet a nice lady. Enjoy happy times with a nice man. Call to meet 287-5522

LCD & Plasma TV Repair
Samsung, Philips, Vizio...etc
Call for more information
233-5641
Open: Monday-Saturday 9:00am - 7:00pm
www.calvatron.net

CAPITOL HILL APARTMENTS
1-Bedroom with 1 Bathroom
Fully furnished
with AC, Linens, Pots,
Pan, etc. Very Private.
CALL 322-2424

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(1) Car Salesperson
- At least one year experience in sales preferably selling cars
- Documentation skills & computer literate
- Must have valid driver's license with clean record
- Can drive automatic & manual transmission vehicle
- Customer focus and can work with minimal supervision

All interested applicants may send resume to
dpacarmart@gmail.com

Joeten Development Inc.
dba Joeten Superstore
is currently seeking
(1) Security Guard
(2) Stockers
(3) Supervisors
(3) Cook Helpers
Resumes must be emailed to
hrd3@joeten.com
Joeten Development Inc. dba Joeten Superstore is a equal opportunity employer.
Closing date: July 21, 2014

APARTMENTS FOR RENT
Realty Management Services
Fina Sisu Terraces
Small 1-BR, 1-BTH. Unit approximately 284 sq.ft. **$250**/month.
2-BR, 1-BTH. **$350-$550**/month. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted.
Ocean View Terraces
(Navy Hill)) Unit Approximately 642 sq/ft
Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apt with private balcony & beautiful view. **$600**/month
Sunset View Terraces
(Navy Hill) Unit Approximately 642 sq/ft
Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apt with private balcony & beautiful view. **$550**/month
LNH Apartments
(Lower Navy Hill)
Small 3BR & 2BTH. Unit approximately 600 sq.ft. EPA Solar Water Heater.
$450/month
Hilltop Condominium*
(San Vicente) Unit approximately 1,024sq/ft
Luxury 2BR & 2BTH Apt with private balcony & majestic view. **$700**/month
Luxury 1BR & 1BTH approximately 600 sq/ft
$500/month
***Wi-Fi & nighttime security excluded**

FEATURES:
- Fully Furnished
- Back-up Generator
- Air-conditioning in all rooms
- FREE WiFi
- Laundry Area
- Nighttime Security
- Ample Parking
- 24hr water

Please visit our website at www.saipan-properties.com
Call for an appointment
235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

CLICK IT OR TICKET
DAY & NIGHT

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(18) CONSTRUCTION WORKER
(2) PAINTER
(2) ELECTRICIAN
(3) HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR

With at least minimum of 2 years experience and must submit latest police clearance.

Application form can be picked up at Big Bell Inc (Office)
Koblerville, Saipan, CNMI

Job Vacancy Announcement
Apex Builder's Inc.

(1) Machinist

- Rate: $5.60 - $6.50/hour
- Must be a high school graduate or with a minimum of 5 years experience as a machinist.
- Interested applicants may apply at Apex Builder's Inc. office located at Tun Kioshi, Kileleman Rd. As Perdido, Saipan 96950.
- A copy of Police Clearance must be attached to the application. Incomplete application will NOT be accepted. Skills testing may be required.

Closing Date: July 24, 2014
Apex Builder's Inc. dba K Parts
Is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Saipan Tribune, Inc. is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following positions:

Accountant
Associate's Degree in Finance or Accounting with at least 3 years work-related experience in general accounting procedures with emphasis on receivables and payable management. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 FICO system and MS Excel, Word and PowerPoint software. Must be able to work under time pressure and must work flexible hours. CPA not required.

Accounting and Circulations Manager
College degree with financial management major and 3 years of progressive financial management and newspaper circulation experience. Minimum of 5 years experience in directing the preparation of financial reports and implementing cash management and newspaper circulation activities. Excellent communication and strong interpersonal skills to manage a work team and independent contractors. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 Financial and Controlling (FICO) system and Microsoft software. CPA not required.

Associate Editor
Associates degree in Journalism, Creative Writing, English, or any other related course with at least 5 years experience, including newsroom management, story evaluation, and production. Must have strong rewriting, headlining, and proofreading skills and must be able to meet tight deadlines. Preferably with an extensive experience in sports writing.

Circulations Coordinator
Associates degree with a minimum of 2 years progressively responsible work experience. Requirements include professional customer service and good driving skills. Must be able to routinely lift and move bundles of newspapers up to 50 lbs.

Graphic Designer (3)
Associate's degree in Graphic Design or other related field. Minimum of 3 years work experience doing computer graphics and newspaper layout. Proficiency in Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator and Adobe InDesign is a must. Must be familiar with offset printing process, computer peripherals, and Mac operating system. Strong organizational and self-management skills, including the ability to multi-task and prioritize are required. Can work flexible hours, weekends, and holidays, depending on demand.

Managing Editor
Associates degree in Journalism, Creative Writing, English, or any related course. At least 8 years progressive journalism and newspaper management experience with a strong story evaluation and production background. Must have rigorous proofreading skills and able to meet tight deadlines. Knows how to use InDesign or Quark Express and must be adept in the various technical aspects of newspaper publishing.

Reporter (3)
Associates degree in Journalism, Creative Writing, English, or any related course; At least 3 years work related experience; Above-average writing skills and a competent grasp of grammar and syntax; With rigorous standards for accuracy and detail; Ability to work within deadlines and in a stressful environment; Knowledgeable in all types of writing, including news and features; With photography skills.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at Saipan Tribune, Inc. Human Resources Office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Friday, July 25, 2014.

Saipan Tribune, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 07-2010

Opening date: July 07, 2014 **Closing date: July 25, 2014**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA)
announces the following job vacancy:

Position: (1) ARFF Mechanic-III (Saipan)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. Failure to provide any of the required documents may result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents is no later than 4:30 p.m., Friday, July 25, 2014.

Detailed information on qualifications and position description for the above positions shall be picked up along with the application form during regular working hours at the CPA's Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Saipan International Airport, Arrival Wing. For more information, please contact the CPA HR Administrator Ms. Rita Omar, by email at rita.omar@cpa.gov.mp or by phone at (670) 237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

/s/MaryAnn Q. Lizama
Executive Director

WHATZIT Solution: House rule

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

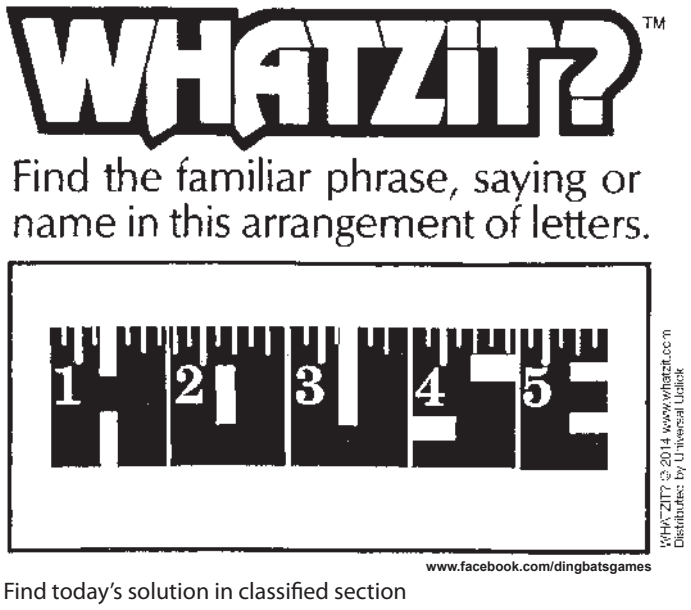
Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.


WHATZIT?
Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.
1 H 2 I 3 U 4 5 E
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Distributed by Universal Uclick
www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

Balanced NBA field will make title chase tougher

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Patrick Ewing sees the parallels between then and now.

For 13 straight seasons, Ewing averaged at least 20 points. He was a superstar, the toast of New York, the city's biggest star when he was the face of the Knicks' franchise. During the stretch when Ewing was at his peak, his combination of points, rebounds and blocked shots made him unquestionably one of the game's elite.

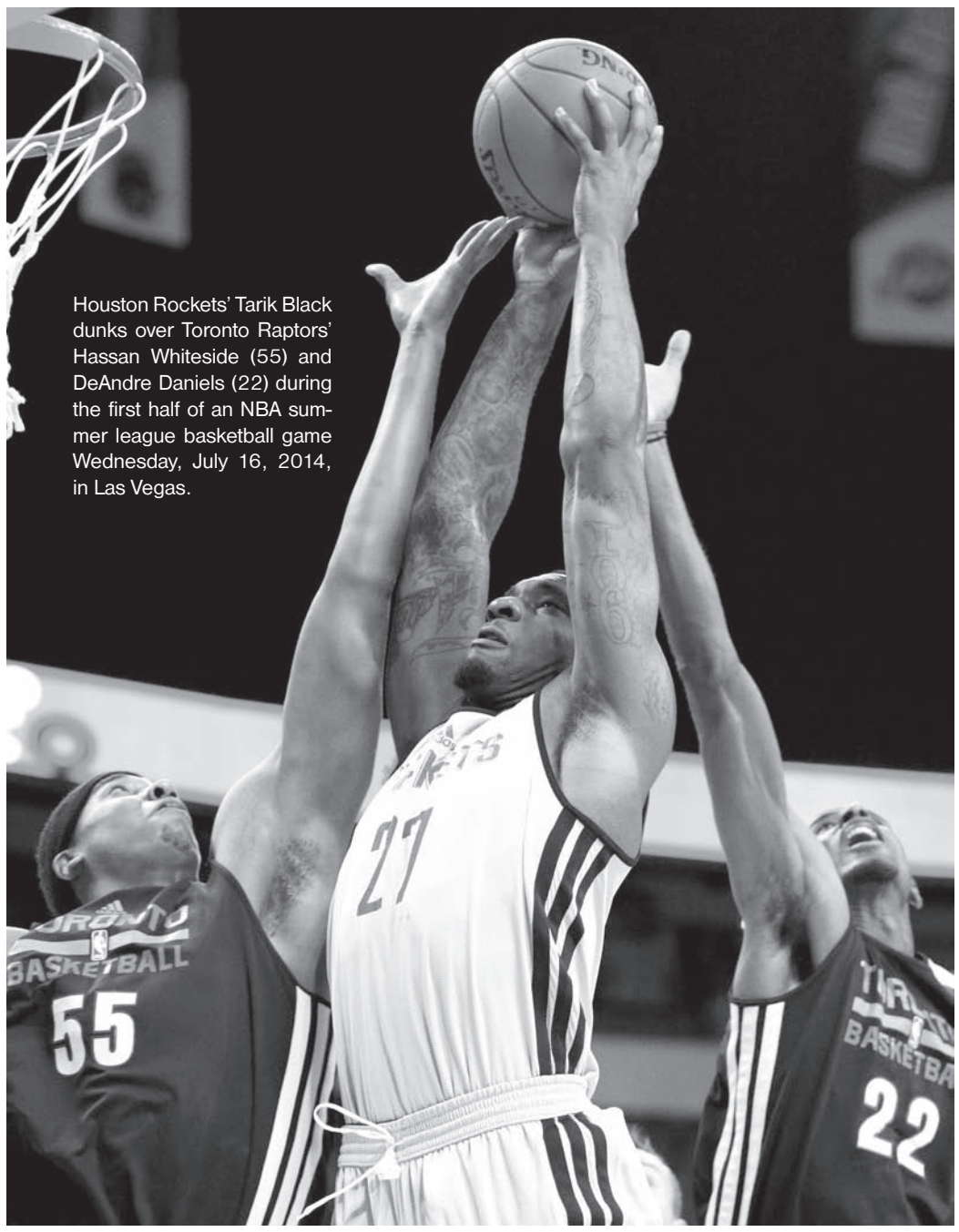
''When I played, it was mostly one superstar per team,'' Ewing said.

And that, in the end, was a problem for Ewing. For as good as he was - not to mention the likes of Charles Barkley, Dominique Wilkins, George Gervin and many others—his enormous talent never carried him to an NBA championship.

He sees the league heading back that way now. When LeBron James left Miami last week for a return to the Cleveland Cavaliers, the power structure of the league shifted as well. And while there's obviously a team loaded with future Hall of Famers in San Antonio, and plenty of teams with two players worthy of at least superstar argument, there's nothing now that can mirror what the Heat had when James, Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh were teammates.

James' latest decision also gives Cleveland a better chance to win a title.

But like Ewing, Barkley and plenty of others know, a more-balanced playing field across the NBA means many other teams figure to have a better chance as well.



Houston Rockets' Tarik Black dunks over Toronto Raptors' Hassan Whiteside (55) and DeAndre Daniels (22) during the first half of an NBA summer league basketball game Wednesday, July 16, 2014, in Las Vegas.

''There's a lot of money being given today and there's a lot of teams with more great players than there were in the past,'' said Paul Silas, James' first coach in Cleveland. ''I like seeing that. I really like to see the teams fight against each other and having more than one have a chance to win the whole thing.''

Welcome to the new NBA.

Or, rather, the updated NBA.

Sure, 16 teams go to the playoffs, but really, how many were legitimate title contenders last season? The entire season a year ago seemed like Indiana and Miami were preordained to meet in the Eastern Conference finals - and that's exactly what happened. James changes sides, a few other moves get made, and now there's probably a half-dozen teams in the East alone thinking they'll be good enough to be one of the last two teams standing next June.

Ask NBA executives, many of whom aren't upset to see Miami's stranglehold as East favorites come to an end, and they say it's all a good thing for the game.

''Much more competitive this year,'' Knicks President Phil Jackson said. ''The East last year, I thought until the very end when the Knicks made a run, Toronto got going, Washington got going, there were a lot of teams languishing under or around .500. But I think this year, more talent's spread around the East and I think it's going to be very competitive.''

The comparison might be what happened 20 years ago. Chicago was playing without Michael Jordan, who was beginning his retirement to play baseball, so the Bulls' three-year run as NBA champions was widely expected to end. San Antonio's David Robinson and Orlando's Shaquille O'Neal were the league's best two scorers that season, and neither made it out of the first round of the playoffs.

Ewing and the Knicks found their way past the Bulls - still plenty good with Scottie Pippen—and into the NBA Finals, where the MVP that season, Hakeem Olajuwon, was waiting.

The Rockets were deeper. They won in seven games, denying Ewing what was his best chance at that ring.

The lesson: Even superstars know the best team probably gets it done.

And in the East right now, who that best team is obviously up for much debate.

''Teams have the ability to have two (superstars) now,'' Ewing said. ''We don't know what the collective bargaining agreement is going to be, with the new TV money coming in, what's going to happen. We'll see what happens.''

Hornets get Stephenson from Pacers

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Lance Stephenson is bringing his swag to Charlotte.

The controversial shooting guard has agreed to a $27 million, three-year deal with the Hornets, according to a person familiar with the contract. The deal includes a team option for the third season.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on Wednesday on condition of anonymity because the deal has not yet been made public. The person says Stephenson is expected to be introduced at a press conference Friday.

Stephenson wrote on Twitter: ''Indy, I had a great 4 years. Thank you Larry Bird, the fans, my coaches and teammates for the incredible experience. I will never forget any of you! I now have to look to the next phase of my career and the wonderful opportunity to continue to grow as a player and as a person in Charlotte! I'm excited to play for this franchise and the fans!! (hash)buzzcity.''

Stephenson met with Hornets owner Michael Jordan and other members of the organization Tuesday night in Las Vegas to make sure he was a good fit before agreeing to the deal.

The Pacers had offered Stephenson a five-year, $44 million contract but he chose to sign for fewer years.

''While we tried our best to come to the best possible terms for both sides, there was not sufficient flexibility in the terms of the contract, particularly the length of the contract,'' his agent Alberto Ebanks said in a statement. ''Lance will miss the city, the team and the mentor who helped transform him into the dynamic player he has become. He looks forward to making a strong contribution and beginning a new chapter with the Charlotte Hornets.

''Lance is forever grateful for all the love he's received from Pacers fans. He is especially grateful to his teammates, Frank Vogel, Herb Simon, the Pacers management and most of all, Larry Bird.''

The 6-foot-5 Stephenson is coming off his best NBA season, averaging 13.8 points, 7.2 rebounds and 4.6 assists per game. He led the league with five triple-doubles.

Just as important, Stephenson brings some needed playoff experience and toughness to a team an organization that failed to win a postseason game during the past 10 seasons. Stephenson averaged 13.4 points and 6.4 rebounds in 40.2 minutes per game during the Eastern Conference finals.

Stephenson was not Charlotte's first choice.

The Hornets turned their attention to Stephenson after Utah matched its offer to restricted free agent Gordon Hayward.

Stephenson certainly comes with his share of issues.

Outspoken and emotional, Stephenson had 17 technical fouls last season - third-most in the NBA. He plays the game with confidence, intensity and toughness.

During the Eastern Conference playoffs he challenged LeBron James and the Miami Heat with his words and later whispered in James' ear during Game 5. Miami won the series. He was also involved in a scuffle after practice with teammate Evan Turner during the playoffs.

Still, the Hornets couldn't ignore Stephenson's shooting, upgrading a team that finished in the bottom third of the league in 3-pointers made and 3-point field goal percentage.

The 23-year-old Stephenson shot 49 percent from the field last season and 35 percent from 3-point range. He is a 32.5 percent shooter from 3-point land for his career.

Gerald Henderson was last year's starting shooting guard. But with the addition of Stephenson and first-round draft pick P.J. Hairston it's unclear if the team will try to move Henderson this offseason.

Stephenson, who has averaged 9.1 points per game for his career, will leave a big hole on the Pacers roster.

Talansky's tenacity on show in Stage 11

OYONNAX, France (AP)—Sitting on a roadside guard rail, wincing and rubbing his lower back, Andrew Talansky looked ready to quit the Tour de France in the middle of Stage 11. The Tour's Web site and French TV commentators said his race was over. So did some English-language Twitterati.

The ''Pit Bull'' proved them wrong.

With a show of tooth-grinding grit and determination to repay his Garmin Sharp teammates who had ridden hard to help him, the 25-year-old Miami native got back up on his bike, wiped his eyes and pedaled on to the finish far behind the pack - and just in time.

Two days earlier, the pain and damage from two recent crashes had already ended Talansky's outsider hopes of victory. He began Wednesday's 187.5-kilometer (116.3-mile) hilly ride from Besancon to Oyonnax in eastern France in 26th place - nearly 15 minutes behind race leader Vincenzo Nibali. The Italian retained the yellow jersey Wednesday by finishing right behind France's Tony Gallopin, who won Stage 11 in a bold late breakaway.

Talansky, nursing a sore back, had bad luck compound his misery early in the stage: He blew a tire and got left behind. Because he was no longer in contention to win the Tour in Paris on July 27, his teammates didn't wait up.

Straining, he couldn't make up the difference alone, but pressed on anyway.

When Talansky, clearly in agony, stopped on a roadside and sat down with about 60 kilometers left, Garmin-Sharp sporting director Robert Hunter - who as a rider became the first South African to win a Tour stage - and other two other staffers pulled up in a team car.

''He thought that maybe it was time to stop the Tour. He sat down ... thought about it, and decided to continue,'' said Hunter. ''If he wants to fight on and get to the finish, the only way we're going to get there is by fighting. That's his character and the way the team works as well.''

Hunter continued to pour on encouragement from the car as Talansky resumed riding.

Under race rules, Talansky - who would've liked to be a journalist if not a cyclist - faced a deadline: Because it was a hilly, relatively long stage, he had to finish with a time no more than 14 percent greater than that of Gallopin. It added up to roughly 37 minutes, race officials said.

He finished 32:05 back, with a 20-second penalty for taking too long a pause.

Other riders might have calculated that it would be wiser not to risk worsening an injury so early in a promising career. But Talansky was running on determination, and wanted to make it through the stage.

''I just wanted to make it to the finish ... for my team and the work that they've put into this Tour for me,'' he said at the team bus after straggling to the finish. ''I didn't just want to stop and go home that way after everything they've done for me.''

Talansky was the last of the 179 remaining riders in a pack already depleted of its two biggest stars to crashes. Now, he's 44th in the overall standings - more than 47 minutes behind Nibali. Because he made it, he and the team were able to think over whether it's really worth it for him to carry in a similar Stage 12 on Thursday.

''Now we can sit down tonight and make a proper decision and see where we can go with this,'' said Hunter. Similar to Wednesday's ride in length and layout, Stage 12 is a 185.5-kilometer (115-mile) ride over four small- to mid-sized climbs from Bourg-en-Bresse to Saint-Etienne.

Woods battles new stars in British Open

THE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

Tiger Woods of the US plays a shot on the practice chipping green ahead of the British Open Golf championship at the Royal Liverpool golf club, Hoylake, England, Wednesday July 16, 2014.

HOYLAKE, England (AP)— Even when he's not the favorite, Tiger Woods is still the show at the British Open.

Woods earned that attention by piling up majors at a faster rate than anyone in history, and the attention is just as great now because his recent past includes back surgery and his immediate future is more uncertain than ever. ESPN plans to show his entire round online Thursday.

Not to be overlooked at golf's oldest championship, however, is a new generation of stars.

Rickie Fowler and Harris English will be playing ahead of him. Two groups behind will be Jordan Spieth and Hideki Matsuyama. They are among 25 players who share a bond that speaks to the state of golf. Woods has never won a major during their professional careers.

Yes, they saw his dominance on TV. They just never experienced it.

They were not around for the decade when Woods won majors with regularity, sometimes by a record score, sometimes by a record margin. They missed the days that were so Tiger-centric a player couldn't get through an interview without being asked something about Woods.

''Tiger ruined a lot of guys' lives,'' Charles Howell III, a longtime friend of Woods who lived through those times, said earlier in the year. ''He caused a lot of people some sleepless Sunday nights. But he also motivated an entire generation behind him.''

Howell's point was that while the next generation might have been in awe of Woods, being outside the arena allowed them to study him without getting scarred. They learned from the way he worked. They were more prepared than the generation before them.

The talk at this British Open is that it is more open than ever.

But then, that's been the case since Woods won his last major six years ago. Since that 2008 U.S. Open, 19 players have won majors, and no one has won more than two. In the 24 majors leading up to his last major, Woods won six, Phil Mickelson won three and no one else won more than one.

''Looking at the different amount of winners in the last five years at the major championships, we're seeing so many players win,'' Henrik Stenson said Wednesday. It's so competitive. At some point there might have been 20 guys battling out for it. And now it feels like anyone in the field can win if they have a great week. So it's definitely tighter.''

''He's just one of the guys I need to beat if I want to do well this week,'' Stenson said. ''But it's a good start if you know you can beat him.''

Woods is playing his first major of the year because of March 31 back surgery. Returning to Royal Liverpool was always the target—he won his third claret jug on these links in 2006 when it was brown and fast, not green and slower as it is this year. Woods came back sooner than he expected, missing the cut at Congressional three weeks ago in what had the feeling of a 36-hole rehab assignment.

He feels healthy. He feels strong. And he still commands a presence.

That much was clear when Woods played only two holes Wednesday as spectators scrambled for a view. He brings energy and excitement to a golf tournament.

The Open is his next opportunity to see if he can regain the mystique that a younger generation has yet to experience. Matt Kuchar, who played a practice round with Woods on Sunday, doesn't think it will take much. He's not sure Woods ever lost it.

''The kids today grew up idolizing him,'' Kuchar said. ''He gets back on form again, I don't think that intimidation factor is gone at all. These are the kids that grew up watching him and wanting to be him.''

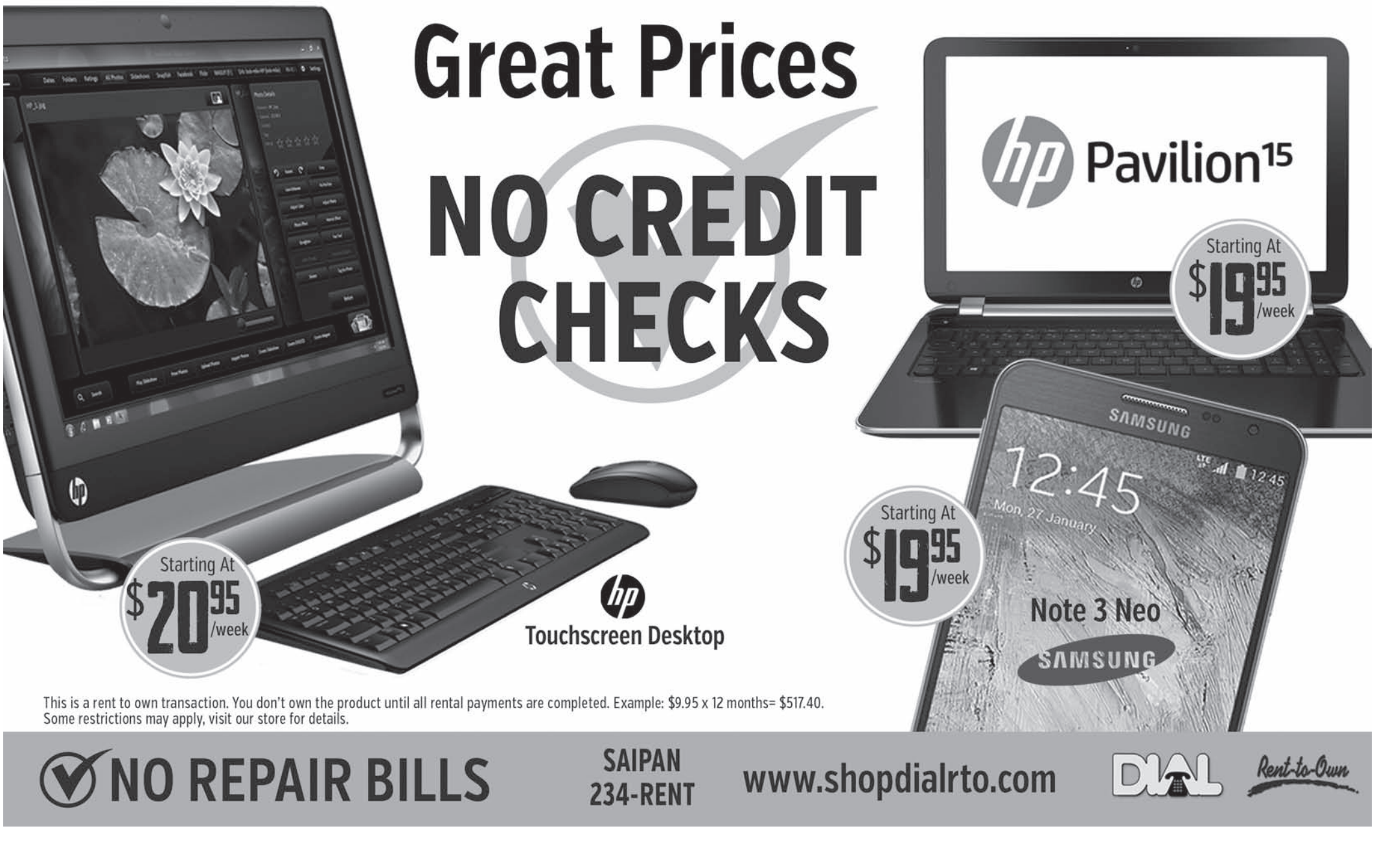
Kuchar said it can be intimidating to play alongside, although Patrick Reed sure wasn't flustered having Woods in the group ahead of him at Doral, and Spieth didn't looked rattled when he shot 63 at Torrey Pines (the North Course) with Woods in his group.

Is there a difference between watching dominance on TV and seeing it in person?

''You're saying a different intimidation for the guys who are now just coming up and just watched it on TV as opposed to my generation that were actually losing by 10 to it?'' Kuchar said with a laugh. ''I'm not sure. If I was to go shoot baskets with Michael Jordan right now, I would be pretty intimidated. So it's probably similar. The guys that played against him and got scored 40 on probably have a similar feeling to me in the awe that surrounds a guy like that.''

It all unfolds on Thursday, where the only mystery greater than Woods in the English weather. The final day of practice featured sunshine and rain. Hoylake when it's green is there to be attacked - it's the only course on the Open rotation with four par 5s. The greens are not severe. The fairways are relatively flat, which makes them more fair.

All eyes will be on Woods, and there's nothing unusual about that. The difference is that no one is sure what they will see.



3 brand new cars at stake in TOC

Three brand new cars can be won as hole-in-one prizes in the 19th Tournament of Champions that will be held on Aug. 2 and 3 at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

Triple J Motors is donating a 2014 Hyundai Tucson GL, while Joeten Motors and Atkins Kroll will give away 2014 Ford Fiesta and 2014 Scion FRS, respectively, for the lucky hole-in-one winners. The contested holes will be announced later, but with the addition of the three brand new cars, the hole-in-one prizes now total to four, as Delta Air Lines has earlier announced it will give two business elite tickets (to anywhere in the U.S.).

Registration for the two-day competition is ongoing with entrance fee of only $185 for both days.

Besides the hole-one-prizes, golfers can win additional cash through the "chip for cash" contest which will be held before participants tee off on both days of the competition at the driving range. TOC will be giving away cash prizes for hole-in-one shots on 19 holes. There will be nine holes worth $50 each, $100 for six holes, $500 for three, and $1,000 for one. Golfers must buy a $1 ticket to participate in the "chip for cash" contest.

Around 200 golfers are expected to join next month's events, which will have competitions in the Championship, A, B,C, Senior, Super Senior, and Ladies (low gross and low net) flights. The Top 3 finishers in each flight (except Ladies low net) will receive cash prizes with $500 going to the champions, $400 to the runner-ups, and $300 to the third placers. The fourth and fifth finishers will bring home digital cameras and gift certificates, respectively.

For more information, contact Arthur Miron at 236-2533.

'Head-to-Head Challenge'

Meanwhile, NIKEGOLF in cooperation with organizers of TOC will host the 2014 TOC Demo Days from July 31 to Aug. 1 at the driving range of LaoLao Bay Golf Resort.

Dubbed as the "Head-to-Head Challenge," the event will feature Nike's latest golf equipment, including the much improved VR_S Covert 2.0.

Partcicipants are welcome to bring their current equipment and compare their overall performance in terms of distance and accuracy against VR_S Covert 2.0.

"As in the previous years, NIKEGOLF is bringing in its full spectrum of hard goods for the CNMI golf community to try out," NIKEGOLF representative to the CNMI John Botelho said.

"To measure distance and accuracy, I will bring with me the state-of-the-art BallFlight and Launch Monitor which will determine your ball speed and spin, launch angles, carry, and driving distances. We will also conduct personalized fittings to those interested," Botelho added.

The event is free. ***(PR)***

Germany top of FIFA rankings after World Cup win

AP

German national soccer coach Joachim Loew celebrates on stage at the German team victory ceremony near the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin, Tuesday July 15, 2014.

ZURICH, Switzerland (AP)— Germany has climbed to the top of the FIFA rankings after winning the World Cup for the first time in 24 years.

The four-time champions, who beat Argentina 1-0 at the Maracana on Sunday, have replaced Spain in first place as well as succeeding them as world champions.

Argentina and the Netherlands complete the new-look top three.

Spain's title defense surprisingly ended in the group stage, and the team has dropped to eighth place.

First-round exits also led to Portugal going down seven places to 11th, Italy dropping five to 14th and England plummeting 10 spots to 20th.

Meanwhile, the German Football Federation is defending Germany's World Cup-winning players after they performed a routine that poked fun at defeated opponent Argentina.

During Tuesday's raucous Berlin victory party, six players bent double and sang ''this is how the gauchos walk,'' then jumped up singing ''this is how the Germans walk.''

The daily Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung said the act hurt Germany's image as a tolerant nation and a leading Twitter trend in Germany Wednesday was ''(hash)gauchogate.''

Federation president Wolfgang Niersbach said the players performed the routine spontaneously and didn't intend to mock anyone.

Niersbach says he'll write to Argentine counterpart Julio Grondona to assure him ''the action was in no way meant disrespectfully.''

In other news, Germany midfielder Toni Kroos has joined Real Madrid from Bayern Munich on a six-year contract.

Madrid said the 24-year-old Kroos, a key member of Germany's World Cup-winning team, would be presented at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium later Thursday.

Neither Champions League winner Madrid nor Bundesliga champion Bayern disclosed the transfer fee.

Kroos was chosen as the best player at the 2007 Under-17 World Cup, when Germany finished third.

He joined Bayern when he was 16 and later spent 18 months on loan at Bayer Leverkusen before returning. He was a regular starter since Pep Guardiola took over as coach last season.

Kroos helped Bayern win the Champions League in 2013 and domestic doubles the past two seasons.

He was on Germany's 2010 World Cup squad, but was given a bigger role in coach Joachim Loew's team during qualifying for this year's tournament in Brazil.

Bayern chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge thanked Kroos for his time in Munich and wished him ''all the best in Madrid and at Real.''

EAFF

From Page 32

month in time for the CNM's stint in the EAFF event, which will be held in Guam from July 20 to 25.

In Guam, the Blue Ayuyus will be facing the host, Macau, and Mongolia. The CNMI players' first match will be against Mongolia on Monday at 3pm, while the second game will be versus Macau on July 23, also at 3pm. The anticipated CNMI-Guam duel will be played in the last day of the tournament on July 25 at 5:30pm. The winner of the competition in Guam will advance in Round 2 to play against Chinese-Taipei, Hong Kong, and North Korea for the slot to the 2015 EAFF East Asian Cup.

Sekiguchi sees Guam as the favorite in the qualifier with its homecourt edge, but believed each match will be tightly contested with Macau and Mongolia also on a mission.

"It will be an interesting tournament and I believe our team will do well this time," Sekiguchi said.

Meanwhile, Schuler, who is on his second stint with the Blue Ayuyus, hopes the young players on the team will provide the needed stamina and energy as they battle the tough Guam squad and the equally competition Macau and Mongolia crew.

"There are new and young faces on the squad and that's good news because they will complement our experienced players. We need their energy and speed to keep up with our opponents," said Schuler, who was talking of young guns Joyner, Izuka, Perez, Agulto Fruit, Yobech, Taisacan, Knecht, and Barry.

"It's also good that I used to coach (with MP United) several of our players, so I kind of know how they play and it will not be that hard making adjustments once we're on the pitch," said Schuler, who arrived on Saipan last Monday and joined the team's training session the following day.

Kirk's wife, Carrie is also on island and is part of the CNMI Women's National Team that was introduced, too at the send-off ceremony yesterday. Other members of the squad are captains Jeralyn Castillo and Mykki Vargas, Jhaneeka Atalig, Elaine Enriquez, Emily Maxberry, Michelle Masga, Marielle Gariguez, Jeraldine Castillo, Megan Silberberger, Melody Johnson, Alexa Vergara, Diane Pablo, Thea Minor, Elizabeth Phan, Gabrielle Race, Krizelle Mae Tuazon, and Chevy Kate. Luam Khen Koo is the head coach with Wai Wo Lee assisting him, while Chi Ming Tang is the goalkeeper coach. Mae Angeline Ito is the team manager, while Pam Carhill is the physiotherapist.

The Commonwealth's female players will play against Guam and Macau.

ANGELES

From Page 32

nals by Raphael Zapanta, Roger De Guzman, and Simon Manacop. Zapanta was ranked third in the qualifier after collecting 1,667 pinfalls (148, 202, 183, 181, 159, 160, 234, 212, and 189) and averaging 185.22, while De Guzman came in at fourth with his 1,658 total (154, 203, 197, 136, 219, 144, 211, 213, and 181) and average of 184.22. Manacop nailed the last slot to the stepladder finals after earning 1,644 pinfalls, just eight pinfalls ahead of Raul Dumapit. Manacop got off to a strong start with his 211 pinfalls in Game 1, but had a roller-coaster performance in the last eight games (150, 185, 157, 184, 231, 172, 199, and 155) to drop his average to 181.78.

In the stepladder finals, the No. 3 to 5 finishers played in the elimination game, while Angeles gained an automatic finals berth, and Talavera had an outright semis seat. De Guzman went on to survive the elimination as his 178 pinfalls bested the 162 of Manacop and 146 of Zapanta.

Up next for De Guzman was Talavera and this time the former's upset axe did not work, as the latter hammered his foe, 247-153, to gain a return trip to the finals. Talavera marched into last year's title game against eventual winner Rusty Musca, but lost right in Game 1 of the finals. Against Angeles, Talavera boosted his chances to avoid another bridesmaid finish, as he took Game 1, 232-200. However, Angeles, who had a twice-to-beat edge in the finale, came back in the deciding Game 2 with a close 225-223 win to spoil Talavera's bid.

Meanwhile, the SBA Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes' July roll-offs will be held this Sunday and Monday.

SHIRLEY'S

From Page 32

The duo had 14 points in the third period, which ended with Shirley's taking a 67-55 lead after being threatened in the first half, 43-44. Dela Rosa continued working down low for Shirley's in the fourth quarter and with the league leader pulling away, the team's other players leisurely hits their shots, while POI failed to counter its foe's easy baskets.

Richard Kim led POI's losing cause with is 23 points, while Ferdie Arago and Ramsa Tenepere logged 16 and 14, respectively.

In the second game, CTSI/D&Q ended a four-game losing skid after defeating Saipan Tribune/Realty Management Services, 64-59.

It was a come-from-behind win for CTSI/D&Q (1-4), as it was down by eight after the third period, 53-45, before stealing the victory from Saipan Tribune/RMS. A six-point output in the fourth quarter did it for Saipan Tribune/RMS, which has no win to show in five games in the first round.

Only Ferdie De La Torre and John March Ong scored for Saipan Tribune/RMS in the final canto with four and two points, respectively, and they were singlehandedly outhit by Ariel Jinang. The CTSI/D&Q captain dropped nine of his 16 points in the fourth-quarter rally, and four of his teammates added at least one basket each.

With the win, CTSI/D&Q moved up to fifth place behind Shirley's, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan (4-1), Kanoa Resort (3-2), and POI (2-3). Saipan Tribune/RMS is at the cellar with its 0-5 card. The second round will begin this Saturday with Shirley's taking on CTSI/D&Q in the first game at 4:30pm, POI meeting Fiesta at 5:30pm, and Saipan Tribune/RMS dueling Kanoa Resort at 7pm.

First Game

Shirley's 94 – Dela Rosa 30, Sedillo 20, Nicdao 8, Catungal 8, Jugos 7, Usi 4, Drillon 2, Sarande 2, Domingo 2.

POI 73 – Kim 23, Arago 16, Tenepere 14, Salamat 9, Matagolai 6, Iglecias 2.

Scoring by quarters: 27-18, 44-43, 67-55, 94-73.

Second Game

CTSI/D&Q 64 – Jinang 16, Garcia 12, Kenty 11, Semisi 8, Candalla 6, Echavez 5, Ilago 2, Nieves 2, Skilang 2.

Saipan Tribune/RMS 59 – Angeles 22, De La Torre 12, J. Ong 9, Moran 6, Pagarao 5, Chan 4.

Scoring by quarters: 20-18, 33-42, 45-53, 64-59.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	51	42	.548	—
Toronto	49	46	.516	3
New York	47	46	.505	4
Tampa Bay	43	53	.448	9 1/2
Boston	42	52	.447	9 ½

Central Division

Detroit	53	37	.589	—
Kansas City	47	46	.505	7 1/2
Cleveland	46	47	.495	8 1/2
Chicago	45	50	.474	10 1/2
Minnesota	43	50	.462	11 ½

West Division

Oakland	58	36	.617	—
Los Angeles	56	37	.602	1 1/2
Seattle	51	43	.543	7
Houston	40	55	.421	18 1/2
Texas	38	56	.404	20

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	51	42	.548	—
Atlanta	52	43	.547	—
New York	45	50	.474	7
Miami	44	50	.468	7½
Philadelphia	42	53	.442	10

Central Division

Milwaukee	53	43	.552	—
St. Louis	52	44	.542	1
Cincinnati	51	44	.537	1½
Pittsburgh	49	46	.516	3½
Chicago	40	54	.426	12

West Division

Los Angeles	54	43	.557	—
San Francisco	52	43	.547	1
San Diego	41	54	.432	12
Colorado	40	55	.421	13
Arizona	40	56	.417	13½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CNMI paddlers eye medal in every event

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Some members of the CNMI Paddling Team pose for a photo after the send-off ceremony for CNMI athletes and officials at the Kanoa Resort last July 9. Also in the photo is CNMI canoe association official Gilbert Birnbrich.

The CNMI Paddling Team is setting a high goal in the upcoming 8th Micronesian Games in Pohnpei—to medal in every event.

"With good talent and plenty of experience, we hope to medal in every event," said coach/paddler Justin Andrew, who will be joined on the team by his son Joshua, Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel, Jason Tarkong, Benusto Olopai, Darell Gallardo, James Pedro Aldan Jr., Carter Calma, and assistant coach Eric MacDuff.

Tarkong is the only holdover from the team that competed for the CNMI in the 2010 Micronesian Games in Palau, while Calma was in the 2012 squad, which incidentally participated in the races in Pohnpei. The rest of the members of the team are familiar faces in high school races, the Micronesian Cup, and other off-island events. The Commonwealth paddlers will be competing in the 500m sprint, 1,500m, 15K, and 20K events in the canoe races in this year's Micro Games, which will kick off this Sunday and will run until July 30.

Kabiriel, who is no stranger to the Micro Games having represented the CNMI in athletics competition in the past several years, will be the anchor of the team in the 500m sprint.

"We will have a solid team of raw power and good mix of talent and experience with Ketson in seat 1 setting our pace, Joshua in seat 2 to complement and back seat 1 up, and Justin in seat 3 to give all the power needed to run the canoe. We have Benusto in seat 4 and Carter in seat 5 with Eric steering in seat 6. Darrell, Jason, and James will be standing by to jump in any of the seats if anything happens," Andrew said.

The leaner Kabiriel will also lead the squad in the 1,500m race and team up with Calma, Olopai, Joshua Andrew, and Aldan.

"We are looking to capitalize on a light and strong crew," the coach added.

"In the long distance races again we are looking to maximize hull speed with a light and strong crew, it will be again Ketson in seat 1, Joshua in seat 2, Benusto in seat 3, James in seat 4, and Carter in seat 5, and Eric in seat 6 as a solid power and backup steersman," said the older Andrew, who will be on his second Micro Games stint, having suited up for Guam in the 1994 event.

The team has been practicing for this year's Micro Games for the past six months, holding training sessions six times a week. According to Andrew, they are alternating sprint, long distance, and mid distance paddling and cardiovascular drills to open up lung capacity with good land based workout and give some muscle mass. As for tournament exposure, majority of the members of the team competed in the last two editions of the Micro Cup.

The Commonwealth paddlers will race in Pohnpei on July 26 and 28 and they will arrive in the host state in two batches with the first group leaving this Monday and the second two days later. In Pohnpei, Andrew picked Palau and Guam as the early favorites.

"We suspect Palau and Guam are the strong teams, but never count the host country out, as they have the homecourt advantage and the crowd to back them up. We may also watch out for Yap," the coach added.

Mariana Resort takes early lead

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Mariana Resort eased its way to another victory, topping I Love Saipan, 88-75, in the second game in the 2014 Emon Lodge No.179 Basketball League 40 and Above Masters Division last Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

With the win Mariana Resort, which came from a 94-71 demolition of Pacific Island Club's Chefs last Monday, took the early lead in seven-team league.

A big third-quarter push helped Mariana Resort beat the debuting I Love Saipan, as the former scored 30 points for a 73-56 advantage, going into the last 10 minutes of play. Before the breakaway, Mariana Resort was ahead by only four at the break, 43-39. Mariana Resort spread the wealth in the third canto with seven players lighting up the scoreboard to turn the four-point cushion to a 17-point bubble.

The double-digit lead at the end of the third period was enough to offset the three straight triples Frank Babauta hit in a bid to bring I Love Saipan back in the game.

After Babauta's consecutive treys, Peter Camacho also hit successive baskets late in the fourth, but only he and the former drained more than two baskets for I Love Saipan, while Mariana Resort kept its balanced scoring en route to the baker's dozen winning margin.

Four Mariana Resort players finished in twin digits, while five others combined for 33 markers. I Love Saipan also had four players scoring double figures, but the three other players who suited up for the team in its debut game totaled for only eight markers.

Jorge De Guzman led Mariana Resort's even scoring with his 13 markers, while Joseph Galulu added 12, and Ed Cosino and Jun Alipio contributed 11 each. Junior Renguul had 18 points for I Love Saipan, which got 17 from Camacho and 16 and 14 from Babauta and Elias Rangamar, respectively.

Meanwhile, Armatech made the grade in its first game, crushing Tan Holdings, 78-50.

Armatech outgunned Tan Holdings in each of the four quarters to bag the lopsided win. The easy victory was set up beginning in the second period, as Armatech padded its lead from seven to 14 by the end of the first half, 39-25. In the second half, Tan Holdings' lackluster offense continued, while Armatech nailed baskets both in the paint and from beyond the arc.

First Game

Armatech 78 – Abuy 15, Pablo 10, Montano 9, Moreno 8, Tobias 7, Park 6, Poquiz 4, Ebuen 4, Tolentino 3.

Tan Holdings 50 – Surima 14, Miday 10, Ocampo 6 Drillon 5, Geli 5, Jacob 4, Sampang 4, Echavez 2.

Scoring by quarters: 21-14, 39-25, 56-38, 78-50.

Second Game

Mariana Resort 88 – De Guzman 13, Galulu 12, Cosino 11, Alipio 11, Pineda 8, Stole 7, Montes 6, Abuan 6, De la Torre 6, Garcua 2.

I Love Saipan 75 – Renguul 18, Camacho 17, Babauta 16, Rangamar 14, Iglecias 3, Ruluked 3, Joab 2.

Scoring by quarters: 20-20, 43-39, 73-56, 88-75.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Mariana Resort's Joseph Galulu pulls up for a jumper against two PIC Chefs defenders during the opening game in the Emon Lodge caging last Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Fiesta wins in opener of Inter-Hotel caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan spoiled the start of Hyatt Regency Saipan's title defense bid, recording a 66-58 win in the opening game in the 2014 Budweiser Inter Hotel Basketball League last Tuesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Jared Matsutaro and Elmer Esdrelon canned important baskets in the fourth quarter to hand the defending champion a debut loss. Matsutaro scored eight of his 19 points in the final canto, while Esdrelon had six to withstand Hyatt's rally.

The defending champion tried mounting a comeback in the fourth frame after falling behind by 11 at the end of the third canto, 48-37. Sajh Hossain led rally, scoring seven of Hyatt's first nine markers to slice the deficit to single digit, but Matsutaro and Esdrelon came into Fiesta's rescue to preserve the lead.

Fiesta put Hyatt in a chasing game right in the first period, as Paul Quizon powered the former to a 12-9 lead. Rew Demafelix then picked up where Quizon left off in the second canto, earning eight points in that quarter that ended with Fiesta upping its lead to 10, 32-22. Though Hyatt improved its offense a bit in the second canto, it still trailed, as Hossain failed to get help from his teammates.

Fiesta retained the double-digit spread, as Matsutaro and Esdrelon scored six points apiece in the third period. Esdrelon kicked off Fiesta's offense in the third, while Matsutaro had his turn in the closing minutes of that frame. Then in the fourth canto, the 1-2 punch traded baskets to counter Hossain's show for Hyatt.

Fiesta Resort 66 – Matsutaro 19, Dimafelix 17, Esdrelon 15, Quizon 10, Villamena 3, Galag 2.

Hyatt 58 – Hossain 24, Garcia 7, Muna 7, Rios 5, Muna 4, William 4, Alipio 2, Esefon 2.

Scoring by quarters: 12-9, 32-22, 48-37, 66-58.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
From left, NMSA president Michael White, 2014 Miss Marianas Teen Gianna Chantal Sizemore Camacho, and Gov. Eloy Inos pose for a photo before gracing the opening ceremony for the 2014 Budweiser Inter Hotel Basketball League last Tuesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Woods battles new stars in British Open
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Saipan Tribune
Sports

CNMI paddlers eye medal in every event
PAGE 31

Blue Ayuyus named, all set for EAFF event

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The members and officials of the CNMI national men's and women's teams pose for a group photo during a send-off ceremony yesterday at the Kanoa Resort. The Commonwealth players will be competing in the Preliminary Round 1 of the 2015 EAFF East Asian Cup in Guam this week.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 18-man CNMI Men's National Team that will participate in the Preliminary Round 1 of the 2015 EAFF East Asian Cup was named yesterday during a send-off ceremony at Kanoa Resort.

Goalkeeper and Northern Mariana Islands Football Association technical director Johann Noetzel heads the squad, which also has goalie Ethan Dickinson, Trey Dunn, Joe Miler, John Taisacan, Jonathan Takano, Jireh Yobech, Joel Fruit, Daniel Agulto, Sean Perez, Ruselle Zapanta, Jehn Joyner, Kennedy Izuka and five off-island players Nick Swaim, Lucas Knecht, Bo Barry, Kirk Schuler, and Dae Won Jeon.

The returning Kiyoshi Sekiguchi is the team's head coach and will be assisted by Taketomo Suzuki and goalkeeper coach Hon Kit Cheng. Completing the squad are team manager Joon Seoung Lee and physiotherapist Jungsang Park.

"Well, I could say that after coaching teams here in 2010 and 2011, this squad is the best assembled so far because we have experienced players and lots of young ones. We have a former pro in Johann and then J.J. (Takano), who played in Brazil. The young players who I saw and coached several years ago are now taller, stronger, and better players," said Sekiguchi, who returned to Saipan early this

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Angeles bags PBA Bowler of the Year plum

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Raymond Angeles played a solid game last weekend to rule the 2014 PBA Budweiser Bowler of the Year Tournament held at the Saipan Bowling Center.

Angeles topped the nine-game qualifier and withstood Robert Talavera's challenge in the finals to clinch the championship in the Philippine Bowling Association-organized tournament that took place last Sunday.

The newly crowned champion knocked down 200-plus pinfalls in three of the nine games in the qualifying tournament to prevail against 23 other players. He had 213, 214, and 224 in Games 3, 8, and 9 and logged no less than 160 pinfalls in the six other games (189, 188, 186, 172, 161, and 188) for a total of 1,735 pinfalls and average of 191.78.

Angeles and the eventual runner-up Talavera were the only two bowlers to score at least 1,700 pinfalls in the qualifier. Talavera posted 200-plus pinfalls twice (221 and 217 in Games 2 and 7), but his 126 in Game 1 was the biggest setback, as he ended up with 1,710 pinfalls, 25 short of Angeles' total. Talavera averaged 190 as he recorded 180, 191, 195, 198, 193, and 189 in the five other games.

Talavera and Angeles were then joined in the stepladder fi-

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Raymond Angeles, seen here showing the trophy he won in a local event last year, topped the 2014 PBA Budweiser Bowler of the Year Tournament held last Sunday at the Saipan Bowling Center.

Shirley's sweeps first round; CTSI/D&Q snaps skid

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Shirley's Coffee Shop kept its unbeaten record in the first round of the 2014 Tan Holdings Inter-Company Basketball League, following a 94-73 victory over POI last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Shirley's finished the first round of the two-round robin regular season with a flawless 5-0 record, while POI dropped to a 2-3 slate, ending its two-game winning run.

Big man Erick Dela Rosa and Fradel Sedillo towed Shirley's to its fifth victory in a row after combining for more than half of the team's total production and leading the squad's second half attack. Dela Rosa had 30 points, while Sedillo added 20.

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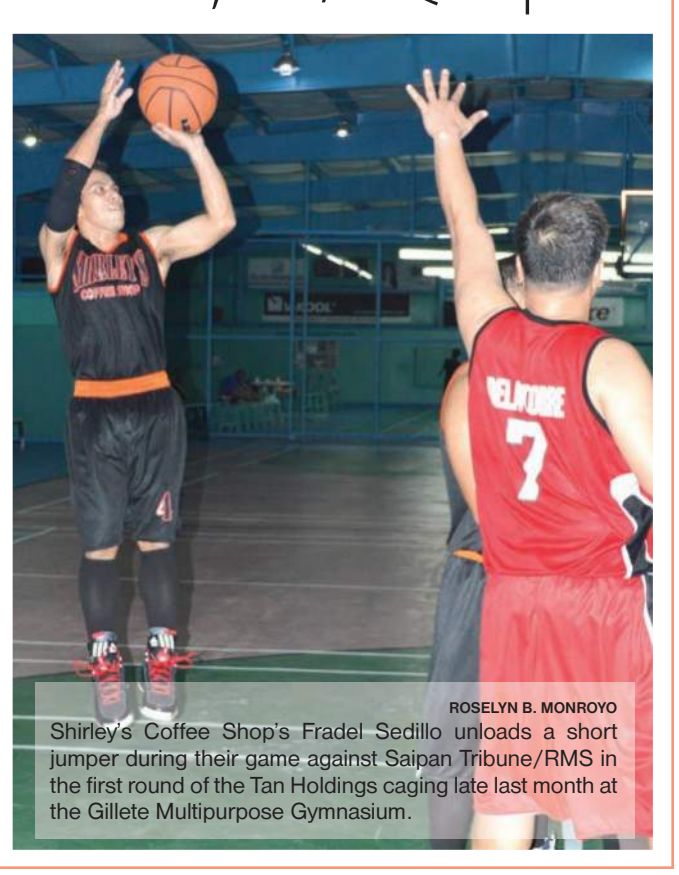

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Shirley's Coffee Shop's Fradel Sedillo unloads a short jumper during their game against Saipan Tribune/RMS in the first round of the Tan Holdings caging late last month at the Gillete Multipurpose Gymnasium.